



Winfield Brown, FACHE

## Winfield Brown Returns to Lead St. Mary's into a New Chapter

St. Mary's Health System welcomed a familiar face as Winfield 'Win' Brown, FACHE, returned to Lewiston-Auburn as president of St. Mary's and senior vice president of Covenant Health. For Win, who previously served as executive director and vice president of the Sisters of Charity Foundation from 1996 to 2003, this homecoming marks a return to the community where he first demonstrated his commitment to mission-driven, high-quality healthcare.

During his earlier tenure at St. Mary's, Win directed philanthropic efforts that expanded vital community programs and enhanced patient care. With over two decades of additional healthcare leadership experience, including his recent role as interim CEO of Mt. Ascutney Hospital & Health Center within Dartmouth Health, he brings proven expertise in building strong, caring communities through excellence in healthcare delivery.

"I am thrilled to be back home to St. Mary's and the Lewiston-Auburn community," says Win, whose deep

local roots include five generations of family who attended Bates College. "This opportunity to return to serve the community we love is truly a dream come true."

Win succeeds Cindy Segar-Miller, who established a strong foundation of financial sustainability during her 18-month interim presidency. In his role, Win will work alongside donors, community partners and medical staff to ensure everyone has access to the care and compassion they deserve.

A fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Win looks forward to building upon St. Mary's legacy while strengthening behavioral health services and expanding access to primary care. His collaborative approach and deep understanding of both healthcare operations and philanthropic partnerships will help advance St. Mary's mission of providing healing care for the whole person to all in our communities.





SAVE THE DATE  
Thursday, December 4, 2025  
Lights of Remembrance

## *Lights of Remembrance*



## Hope and Love Shine Brightly

The spirit of hope illuminated St. Mary's Health System as supporters gathered for the annual Lights of Remembrance celebration last December. A beautifully decorated tree lit up the lives of those we've lost, while the room glowed with holiday lights and decorations. Each light symbolizes a life cherished and a memory treasured.

President Winfield Brown, FACHE, welcomed attendees before Chaplain Charles Demm offered a moving convocation and Father Samy gave a blessing by the tree. The evening's magic peaked as the St. Dom's Elementary School choir, under the direction of Sr. Francesca Sliver, filled the air with joyful Christmas songs. Their Santa hats matched their bright smiles, and their voices lifted hearts before leading into a countdown to the tree lighting.

A touching slideshow honored those remembered through the ornament program, and festive mini-cupcakes, hot cocoa, and marshmallows added to the cheerful atmosphere.

The evening brought together employees, board members, senior leadership, and community supporters in celebration and remembrance. Proceeds supported the Marguerite d'Youville Fund for Emergency Assistance, allowing St. Mary's to continue being a light for those in need throughout the year.







## Celebrating 135 Years of St. Mary's During Mission Week 2024

St. Mary's Health System marked its remarkable 135-year legacy during Mission Week 2024 last October. The week-long celebration honored a history that began in 1888 when the Sisters of Charity purchased a 36-acre property on Sabattus Street in Lewiston from Sarah J. Golder and created the first hospital in Lewiston. The first of the 30 beds in the hospital was occupied in January of 1889.

Throughout Mission Week, staff and visitors explored historical artifacts in the Main Lobby, including memorabilia from the nursing school and vintage photographs showcasing pioneering moments like the first defibrillator in 1968. The celebration featured daily events, including special meals at Campus Cuisine, a Core Values Candy sale with hidden golden tickets worth \$135 and the sale of commemorative tiles from the original nursing school.

The week's highlights included the presentation of the 2024 Marguerite d'Youville Awards to employees Terry Lebrun (Collaboration), Diane Brule (Integrity), Melissa Brisson (Excellence) and Jennifer Luksza (Compassion). Monique Weber received the Gloria Jenkins Award for her exemplary service.

Daily prayers and reflections honored St. Marguerite d'Youville's legacy of compassionate care, reminding that each of us is essential in bringing healing, care, comfort and hope to St. Mary's and the communities we serve.

Scan the QR code to watch a short video about our 135-year history.





Ray DeBlois, CFO (seated left)  
Mitch DeBlois, President (seated right)  
Steve Morin, VP of Operations (standing left)  
Andy Bosse, VP of Construction (standing right)

## Sponsor Spotlight: DeBlois Electric

When DeBlois Electric President Mitch DeBlois talks about supporting St. Mary's Health System, he speaks of a connection that runs deep. "Since I was a boy, we've always been involved in getting care at St. Mary's," he says. "You're not just a patient or a number – you feel like you belong."

That personal connection has grown into a 26-year philanthropic partnership, including event and corporate sponsorships. Most recently, DeBlois Electric supported St. Mary's Behavioral Health Emergency Department, helping provide specialized behavioral recliners, rechargeable headphones, weighted blankets and other essential items that create comfortable personal spaces for patients.

The company's support extends beyond monetary gifts. When the Nutrition Center needed to evaluate power requirements for new freezers and refrigerators, DeBlois Electric donated an electrical study to ensure the success of the project.

As an employee-owned company founded by Willie and Gaetane DeBlois in 1967 and now managed by their sons, Mitch and Ray, DeBlois Electric involves team members in giving decisions. "We all come to a common point together about not only what we're giving but why," Mitch says. "It's important to be involved in the community and give what you can – and give often. If we can help, we shouldn't sit on the sidelines."



**DeBlois Electric, Inc.**

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR • DESIGN BUILD

*Building lasting relationships since 1967.*

"At St. Mary's, people come first. Their culture and morale resemble our own. That's why we've always wanted to do our part to help support their mission." – Mitch DeBlois, President of DeBlois Electric





Interpreters, Degan Guled and Benjamin Paulo

“Interpreters do a lot more than communicate words. They need active listening, empathy and cultural and nonverbal communication awareness. Having the right person is a gift.”

– Jacynthe Jacques,  
Interpreter Services  
Program Manager

## Interpreter Services: Breaking Down Barriers to Informed Care

In a busy emergency department at St. Mary’s Health System, a patient experiencing stroke-like symptoms arrives speaking no English. The medical team springs into action with urgent medical care – and immediately accesses an interpreter through a video screen.

Within minutes, an on-site interpreter joins the care team in person. The interpreter’s presence transforms the situation by bridging crucial communication gaps in the patient’s care. More than just translating words, the interpreter helps convey vital medical information while picking up on subtle body language and cultural nuances that could affect treatment.

Seamlessly, St. Mary’s Interpreter Services program ensures every patient, regardless of language or communication barriers, receives the high-quality, compassionate care they deserve.

“Interpreting is really about providing a bridge between two people to communicate,” says Interpreter Services Program Manager Jacynthe Jacques. “We put the power back in patients’ hands so they can make more informed decisions for their own health.”

The program offers interpretation in over 240 languages, including American Sign Language (ASL), through on-site interpreters, video remote interpreting and

phone services. Last year alone, St. Mary’s and its sister hospitals responded to requests in more than 70 languages, with Somali, French, Portuguese and Arabic the most frequently requested at St. Mary’s.

As Lewiston continues to welcome new community members, Jacynthe and her team stay ready to meet evolving needs. Support from donors like The Albert Lepage Center for Patient Experience Fund helps ensure interpreters have the tools they need to serve our diverse community, including iPads with healthcare interpreting software brought directly to patient rooms.

Beyond language interpretation, the team equips departments throughout the hospital with comprehensive communication toolboxes checked every 3-4 months. These include magnifiers for low-vision patients, amplifiers for people who are hard of hearing and pictogram tools for basic communication needs.

“Research shows patients who use interpreter services have lower readmission rates and often lower medical expenses because they can make truly informed decisions about their care,” says Jacynthe. “When patients connect with an interpreter, you can hear the relief in their voice. That’s what makes our work so rewarding.”

# Junior Volunteers Answer the Call to Serve at St. Mary's

At St. Mary's Health System, a new generation of caregivers is learning what it means to help others. Wearing their distinctive volunteer badges, these dedicated teenagers navigate the hospital halls with purpose, bringing smiles and support to patients and staff.

The Junior Volunteer Program has flourished with 17 young volunteers making their mark last summer by dedicating 1,435 hours. Nine of these volunteers achieved the milestone of 100+ hours of volunteering.

"Although I've always been interested in the medical field, this opened my eyes to the vast scope of opportunities that I have to help patients in the future," says one of the junior volunteers.

Open to teens ages 14-17, the program requires volunteers to work at least one 8-hour shift a week during summer, though many choose to continue volunteering their time through the school year. These ambitious young people assist with patient transportation, flower deliveries, errands, mail deliveries and special projects at the hospital or support resident engagement activities at d'Youville Pavilion, St. Mary's rehabilitation and long-term care residences.

Volunteers' orientation covers St. Mary's heritage, core values, mission and essential healthcare protocols. Many participants are exploring healthcare careers, while others have family connections to St. Mary's or simply want to give back to their community.

"Our staff and patients genuinely appreciate our junior volunteers," says Mariah Rinck, patient experience manager and former junior volunteer. "They bring a refreshing sense of energy, optimism, caring and humor that directly translates to improving the patient experience at St. Mary's."



Scan the QR code to learn more about St. Mary's volunteer opportunities.



*Summer 2024 Junior Volunteer Gavin Anderson, Former Junior Volunteer and Current Patient Experience Manager Mariah Rinck and Summer 2024 Junior Volunteer Charlotte Merrill.*

"Our volunteers are ambitious, compassionate and empathetic young people who have stepped up to help improve the St. Mary's patient experience by helping professional staff in whatever way they can."

– Mariah Rinck, Patient Experience Manager and Former Junior Volunteer

## Healing from the Inside Out



*Mark Branda, MD, Endoscopy Department*

Mark Branda, MD, was drawn to gastroenterology for its wide range of conditions and the chance to perform hands-on procedures such as endoscopy. Since completing his training in 2008, Dr. Branda has seen significant advancements, including improved treatments for inflammatory bowel disease and hepatitis.

At St. Mary's Health System, Dr. Branda and the Endoscopy Department team prioritize comfort and safety when diagnosing and treating digestive and liver disorders. They've adopted advanced sedation techniques, such as propofol anesthesia, which has significantly improved the patient experience. The department excels in preventive care, including screening colonoscopies that allow early detection of precancerous polyps.

In our rural community, St. Mary's has always been a place where neighbors care for neighbors. Our dedicated, close-knit team provides personalized, high-quality care that makes a lasting difference for every patient who comes through our doors.

Your generous support empowers talented caregivers like Dr. Branda to advance our mission of compassionate healthcare, ensuring St. Mary's remains a trusted provider for many years to come.

# CORNERSTONE

– St. Mary's Foundation Newsletter –

## Virtual Primary Care

St. Mary's Health System is excited to announce that new patients can now schedule appointments directly with our virtual primary care physician, Dr. Okhovat!

This service offers secure video appointments during convenient hours, providing easier access to healthcare without the need to travel. Services include management of chronic conditions, sick visits, prescription refills, mental health support and coordination of in-person care when necessary. Please note that patients must be located in Maine during their visit and in a private, quiet space to ensure the best experience.

**Book your appointment online today:**  
[stmarysmaine.com/services/primary-care/virtual-primary-care/](https://stmarysmaine.com/services/primary-care/virtual-primary-care/)



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