

# 2025

## TOGETHER IN EXCELLENCE

— COMMUNITY REPORT —



Stormont Vail  
Health



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Community Partners,

Stormont Vail Health has had pivotal collaborations in its history that have changed the course of the organization.

- The first was in 1949 when two competing Topeka hospitals merged - and the resulting organization became the dominant acute care hospital in the region.
- The second collaboration occurred in 1995 - 30 years ago in August - when Stormont Vail Regional Hospital entered into a partnership with Cotton O'Neil Clinic. The two became a respected, independent healthcare system providing ambulatory, procedural and inpatient services for the region.

Thirty years later the joint venture has proven to be one of the most successful hospital-medical clinic mergers in the country, resulting in today's Stormont Vail Health - a high-performing, integrated healthcare network

At Stormont Vail, our commitment to being a high-reliability organization is unwavering. Together in Excellence, our teams are relentlessly focused on reducing preventable medical errors through disciplined, standardized practices; timely learning from safety events and near-misses; and a culture that empowers every team member to speak up.

We will continue to invest in training, team huddles, and tools that create a trusted care environment, and we will listen closely to ensure our actions reflect the needs of patients and the frontline. Our promise is simple and profound: the safest possible care for every patient, every time.

What began as a vision of partnership between two entities 30 years ago has resulted in a legacy of trusted healthcare, and greater accessibility to primary, specialty, and procedural and surgical care. We continue today to build on the experiences and successes of our past; developing plans and strategies for our future.

**Mark Slyter**  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

# ABOUT STORMONT VAIL HEALTH

Stormont Vail Health has long been a leader in providing high-quality healthcare to Kansans. We take pride in the history on which our system was built, while also looking to the future to continually improve the care we provide. We are a health system that knows our communities and the regions we serve. We are neighbors helping neighbors, striving to treat everyone who walks through our doors as we would our own family.

When it comes to the care we provide, we invest in the best providers and advanced technology and services to ensure you are receiving high-quality, evidence-based care. Our investment is an investment in our communities. This means you are able to receive care close to home and avoid lost work time and unnecessary travel expenses. We believe that partnerships with our patients, other healthcare providers and community groups and organizations, are key to delivering the best care.

We know that each person who walks through our doors has a past, a present and a future. Every interaction we have, whether big or small, is an opportunity to create a positive impact. Together, we are building a healthier future - one patient, one family, and one community at a time - because everyone deserves the BEST healthcare.

To learn more visit, [stormontvail.org](http://stormontvail.org).



Scan the QR Code to learn more about our history rooted in philanthropy and women of faith.

## MISSION

Working together to improve the health of our community.

## VISION

Stormont Vail Health will be a national leader in providing compassionate, high-quality and efficient integrated care through collaboration that results in a healthier community.

## VALUES

**Service to Others:** We meet or exceed the needs and expectations of those we serve.

**Quality:** We create an environment of trust, comfort and confidence brought about by a competent, compassionate and caring staff.

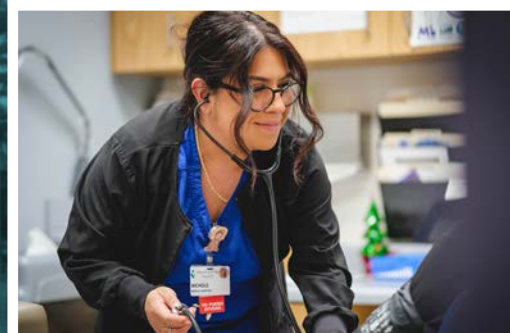
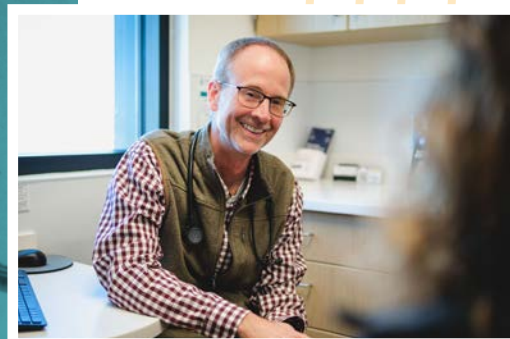
**Teamwork:** We do together what cannot be done alone.

**Respect:** We honor the dignity and creative potential of each staff member.

**Viability:** We assure our mission by remaining profitable.



Christ's Hospital, 1927. A historic facility that remains part of Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka today.





The Sim Lab escape room challenge brings training to life as teams apply real-world clinical skills using high-fidelity manikins



## SAFETY: “DON’T HARM ME”

### Transforming Employee Safety Culture with Creativity, Partnerships

Stormont Vail advanced its safety culture through innovative training and strategic partnerships. A highlight was the use of an escape room for patient-facing team members, immersing participants in simulated clinical environments to identify and resolve safety issues. More than 2,000 employees completed the simulation experience, which proved highly engaging and reinforced the “Steps to Safety” across the organization. Complementary initiatives included leadership rounding sessions and the launch of Speak Up Stormont, a reporting system that encourages transparency and learning. Early results show increased incident reporting, signaling a stronger culture of safety. Leveraging Mayo Clinic Care Network expertise was pivotal in refining these strategies, validating plans, and inspiring creative approaches to team engagement.

### ‘A’ Hospital Safety Grade from the Leapfrog Group

In the Spring of 2025, Stormont Vail earned an “A” Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit watchdog focused on patient safety. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade stands as the only hospital ratings program focused solely on

preventable medical errors, infections, and injuries. An “A” grade placed Stormont Vail in the top 32% of hospitals nationwide.

### National Hospital Safety Leader Across Multiple Healthcare Areas

- Blue Distinction® Center for Knee and Hip Replacement by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS)
- American College of Cardiology’s (ACC) NCDR Chest Pain - MI Registry Platinum Performance Achievement Award for 2025
- American Heart Association (AHA) Get with the Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus Achievement Award, Honor Roll-Elite; Honor Roll Advanced Therapy; and Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll
- American Heart Association (AHA) Get with the Guidelines Stroke Rural Recognition Bronze Award (Stormont Vail Flint Hills Campus)
- Three-year Renewal Recognition for Quality and Safety in Endoscopy from the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE)





## QUALITY: “HEAL ME”

### 4-Star Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for Hospital Quality

Stormont Vail received a 4-Star Hospital rating from CMS 2025 Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings, reflecting our continued commitment to delivering safe, high-quality, and compassionate care to the communities we serve. The CMS star ratings evaluate hospitals nationwide based on performance across five key categories: Mortality, Safety of Care, Readmission, Patient Experience, and Timely and Effective Care. Stormont Vail’s 4-star rating places it among the top-performing hospitals in Kansas and across the country, with only 26.5% of hospitals nationwide earning four stars in 2025.

### Advancing Quality Care Through Robotic Surgery Innovation

In 2025, Stormont Vail made major advancements in our Robotics Program, reinforcing our position as a regional leader in robotic-assisted surgery. Since launching the program in 2018 in Topeka, we have combined cutting-edge technology with the expertise of more than 20 highly-trained surgeons and over 45 Surgical Care and support team members.

Stormont Vail is now:

- The only hospital in Topeka offering 24/7 access to the da Vinci 5 robotic surgical system, the most advanced and integrated robotic surgery system
- Home to Topeka’s first-ever da Vinci 5 procedure
- Home to the Mako Spine Robot making us one of six hospitals in the U.S. with this cutting-edge technology
- The first health system in Topeka to offer the Ion robotic-assisted bronchoscopy system for lung nodule biopsy and diagnosis

### Providing Vaginal Births After Cesarean (VBAC)

By providing the availability of VBAC for expectant mothers, Stormont Vail is able to provide women with more personalized choices in their childbirth journey. For patients who have previously delivered by cesarean section, VBAC may be a safe and empowering option. For qualified patients, this approach can reduce recovery time, lower the risk of complications in future pregnancies, and support a more natural birthing experience.

Stormont Vail’s Mother & Baby Department is nationally recognized for excellence in maternal and infant care, including:

- A Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)
- Advanced Certification in Perinatal Care by the Joint Commission
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield Blue Distinction Center+ for Maternity Care
- TeamBirth Recognized Hospital
- High 5 for Mom & Baby Premier Facility

### Verified Level II Trauma Center

Since earning its Level II Trauma Center verification in 2009, Stormont Vail has remained the region’s most trusted provider of emergency and specialty care. Stormont Vail serves a wide area, including Topeka, surrounding communities, and rural hospitals that rely on timely transfers for complex cases. In 2025, we were reverified as a Level II Trauma Center by both the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).

Over the past five years, the Stormont Vail Trauma Program has experienced significant growth, increasing from caring for approximately 2,000 patients annually to more than 3,000 patients.



## EXPERIENCE: “BE NICE TO ME”

### When You Give Your Best, You Deserve The Best

Alofa is more than a success story—she’s one of us. As a patient care technician (PCT) with our Perioperative Services team, Alofa Mariner gives her best every day. With support from our Weight Management program and bariatric surgery, she lost more than 150 pounds—and gained newfound energy, confidence, and joy in everyday activities and small moments.

Initially, she considered having the procedure at a different facility, concerned about how being a patient might impact her relationships with her colleagues on the Surgical Care team. However, she ultimately chose Stormont Vail because of the insurance coverage and her rapport with the surgery team during her previous visits.

### Small Moment, Big Impact in Guest Experience

The following experience was shared by a visitor who was so appreciative of the acts of kindness from Deborah Smith, Guest Experience Ambassador.

“I have been at Stormont Vail Health nearly every day for the last three weeks... I walk in every morning through security and a woman named Deborah prints out my name sticker. About five days ago she started recognizing me and remembering my name... The last two days she sees me heading through security and already has my sticker printed when I walk up to her desk. She always greets me by name and tells me to have a good day. She

brings me joy every morning...Today she had my tag ready for me with a sweet smiley face sticker. I almost cried. It’s the little things... THANK YOU Deborah!”

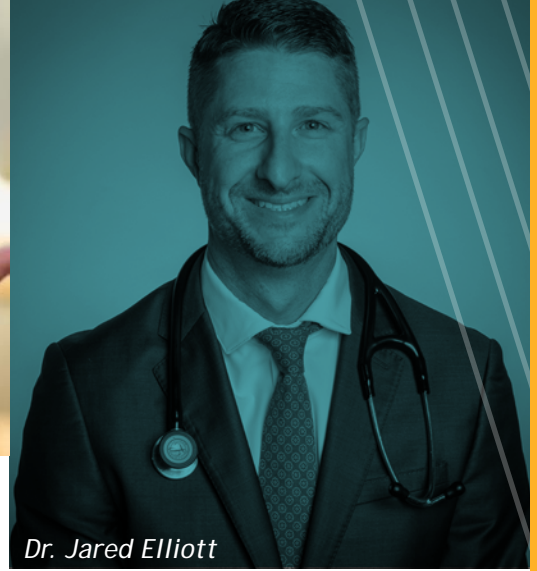
### 1,000 Lives Touched and Counting

Congratulations to Dr. Wael Khreiss, Executive Medical Director of General Surgery, and all the surgical team members who worked alongside him to accomplish 1,000 robotic surgeries!

This milestone is more than a number — it represents lives improved through expert care and compassion. Behind every successful surgery is a team of skilled professionals— surgeons, surgical technologists, nurses, anesthesiologists, and support staff—working together to ensure precision, safety, comfort, healing, and exceptional outcomes. Here’s to the next 1,000 lives touched and the continued pursuit of excellence in patient care.

### Good Samaritan Shout Out

“Today as my hubby and I were leaving Bobo’s, I tripped and fell on the sidewalk. From the parked car I happened to fall in front of, out popped two nurses from Stormont-Vail! They picked me up, asked how I was feeling, put a band aid on my bleeding thumb, and advised me to check in with the doctor who had prescribed my Eliquis, as I had hit my head in the fall. I thanked them, but didn’t get their names.”



Dr. Jared Elliott

## PEOPLE: “BE ENGAGED”

Stormont Vail is truly a special place and it’s because of our team and how they support our patients and each other.

### Gold Support for Breastfeeding Employees

Our Flint Hills Campus in Junction City received the Gold Level Breastfeeding Employee Support Award from the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, recognizing outstanding support for breastfeeding employees.

This award reflects the unified values across Stormont Vail Health’s campuses – from Topeka to Junction City – in creating inclusive, family-friendly workplaces. By offering lactation support, flexible scheduling, and dedicated spaces, the organization empowers working parents to thrive both professionally and personally.

### Globally Accredited Nurse Residency Program

Stormont Vail received accreditation from the Practice Transition Accreditation Program (PTAP), administered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). This prestigious accreditation recognizes Stormont Vail’s Nurse Residency Program as a national leader in supporting nurses as they transition into practice. Stormont Vail joins more than 300 accredited organizations globally, underscoring its commitment to nursing excellence and workforce development.

### Team Member Awards and Recognitions:

- Kansas Hospital Association (KHA) Leadership Institute Graduates
  - Kourtney Brown, Nurse Manager, Flint Hills Campus
  - Braden Shackelford, Administrative Director, Primary Care and Medical Specialty, Behavioral Health
- Sarah Evans-Simpson, MSN FN, RN, TCRN, SANE A, SANE P, Forensic Nurse Supervisor - 2025 Kansas Hospital Association (KHA) Advocacy All Star
- Thaina Dos Santos-Jensen, RN Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) - KSNT ‘Everything Woman’, August 2025
- Sarah Gideon, Director of Health Innovations Networks of Kansas (HINK) - National Cooperative of Health Networks Association, Inc. (NCHN) Outstanding Network Leader
- Dr. Jared Elliott, Hospitalist - 2025 Ingram’s Top Doctor

- 2025 Ingram’s Heroes in Healthcare
  - Dr. Robert Kenagy, former President and CEO
  - Andy Tompkins, Lobby Ambassador
- 2025 Persons of the Moment
  - January: Sally Simmons, Registered Nurse - Carbondale Clinic
  - February: Maggie Scheck, RN - Transitional Care Unit
  - March: Martin Gray, Security Officer - Stormont Vail Health
  - April: Candace Huber, Experience Coordinator - Patient Experience
  - May: Matt Dittmer, Licensed Clinical Therapist Supervisor - Behavioral Health & Kristi Skinner, Social Worker - Care Transformation
  - June: Monica Vasquez, Ambulatory LPN - Manhattan Cardiology
  - July: Shawna Beck, RN, Care Manager and Janet Spantgos, RN - Care Transformation
  - August: Brooke McDonnell, RN, Nurse Manager - 823/901 Family Practice
  - September: Caroline Abrahamson, Speech Language Pathologist - Rehabilitation Services
  - October: Donnie Wells, Patient Care Tech - Behavioral Health
  - November: Alicia Criger, RN, Clinic Nurse Manager, Emporia Clinic
  - December: Whitney Haynes, LPN, Emporia Clinic
- Clyde Clifton Leadership Award: Alison Wilson
- Extraordinary Care Award: Mariella Kennedy
- 20 Under 40 Topeka Awards: Dr. Benton McGivern, Hospitalist
- Leadership Kansas: Amy Kincade, Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer
- Pulmonary Health and Illnesses of the Lungs (PHIL) Award Winners
  - Topeka Campus: Melanie Reamer, Registered Respiratory Therapist
  - Flint Hills Campus: Michelle Budreau

# FINANCE: “BE THERE WHEN I NEED YOU”

## Prompt Pay Program Helps Patients Save on Medical Bills

We're committed to easing the financial burden associated with seeking care. We offer all patients a way to save through our Prompt Pay Program. When a patient pays 90% of their total account balance in one payment, we'll write off the remaining 10%.

The Prompt Pay Program began in August 2024 and has been a great way to help people get a discount when they pay off their account balance in one payment.

Reducing medical costs makes our services more financially accessible to a broader community, ultimately improving overall health outcomes.

## \$1.5 Million Strategic Investment in the City of Emporia

In September 2025, Stormont Vail announced a \$1.5 million charitable investment in the City of Emporia, reinforcing its long-term commitment to community vitality and quality of life. Distributed over 10 years, the investment supports the City's effort to unite the DeBauge Family

Soccer Complex and the Jones Family Aquatic Center into a modern, connected destination for wellness and recreation.

The funding will support capital improvements and enhancements at both facilities, expanding access to health-promoting activities, strengthening community connection, and supporting Emporia's continued economic and social development.

As part of the public-private partnership, the combined facilities will be known as Stormont Vail Health Sports Park, while the individual facility names will remain unchanged. The investment is expected to deliver long-term community returns by supporting population health, enhancing quality-of-life amenities, and helping Emporia attract residents, workforce, and regional events.



Scan the QR code to see the progress in action.

# GROWTH: “BE EASY TO ACCESS AND THE BEST CHOICE FOR CARE”



## First Look at the New Stormont Vail Health Emporia Campus

Stormont Vail Health shared an exciting glimpse into the future of healthcare in Emporia with the unveiling of the first look at our new Emporia Campus. The new building will be located at 18th and Road G in Emporia and is scheduled to break ground in the spring of 2026, with the official opening anticipated in 2028.

The Emporia Campus will include the newest technology available, state-of-the-art virtual/telemedicine equipment, upgraded consultation rooms, comfortable waiting areas, and an enhanced wayfinding experience so patients and families can easily get to their appointments.

## Advancing Breast Cancer Care

Stormont Vail leads the way in breast cancer care by introducing Magseed® technology for breast localization is being utilized at our Flint Hills Campus in Junction City and in Topeka. This advanced alternative is designed to reduce stress for patients undergoing breast cancer surgery.

Unlike traditional wire localization, Magseed® uses a tiny magnetic marker that improves accuracy and comfort for patients. The seed can be placed at any time before surgery, giving patients greater flexibility. This marker allows surgeons to take the most cosmetic approach to

remove cancer and often means patients complete surgery in one operation. The result: fewer disruptions, better outcomes, and expanded access to advanced care in rural communities, ensuring patients don't have to travel far for the high-quality healthcare they deserve.

## Opening the Doors to Our New Outpatient Behavioral Health Center

In December, we officially opened the doors to our new Outpatient Behavioral Health Center at S.W. 3rd and MacVicar Ave. in Topeka. This specialized clinic offers compassionate, expert care for people navigating mental health challenges.

Designed to meet the community's growing need for behavioral health, the Stormont Vail Outpatient Behavioral Health Center provides individualized treatment plans, psychiatric evaluations, medication management, and therapeutic interventions in a safe, welcoming environment. Patients work with a multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, psychologists, APRNs, nurses, social workers, and therapists. Our inpatient behavioral health services continue to be offered at the same location at S.W. 6th and Gage, with added space where the outpatient services were previously housed.

# COMMUNITY: “HELP OUR COMMUNITY LIVE HEALTHIER LIVES”



## Dialogue Coffee House Opens at the Administrative Center

In April 2025, Stormont Vail welcomed Dialogue Coffee House into our Administrative Center,

Dialogue’s fifth location in Topeka. The expansion allows additional individuals living with disabilities to learn life skills, earn a paycheck, and find purpose in their work so they can be contributing members of our society.

## Partnering to Expand Cardiac Care Access for Older Adults

Stormont Vail and Midland Care’s Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) formed a partnership that expands access to specialized cardiology services for older adults served by Midland Care PACE in the Topeka and Shawnee County area. The collaboration delivers on-site cardiology care at the Midland Care PACE Topeka center, reducing transportation barriers and helping participants receive timely, coordinated care.

Under the partnership, Stormont Vail cardiology providers collaborate with the Midland Care PACE team to conduct consultations and follow-up visits, coordinate medication management, and streamline referrals for advanced diagnostics or procedures when needed. By integrating specialty care into the PACE model, the organizations aim to shorten time-to-treatment, reduce avoidable hospital visits, and help participants manage chronic cardiovascular conditions with personalized, team based care.

## Supporting Team Wellness for the Topeka Scarecrows

Stormont Vail and the Topeka Scarecrows formed a new partnership focused on providing comprehensive medical care and wellness support for the hockey team throughout the season.

This collaboration ensures Scarecrows athletes receive top-tier care from Stormont Vail’s experienced sports medicine professionals, reinforcing both organizations’ shared commitment to health, performance, and community engagement.

The Scarecrows are supported by a dedicated team of Stormont Vail physicians and an athletic trainer:

- Dr. Hailey Avila
- Dr. Morgan Birrell
- Dr. Matthew Bohm
- Ali Trosper, ATC

## Reopening the Foot and Ankle Clinic at Kanza Park

We officially reopened the Cotton O’Neil Foot and Ankle Clinic at Kanza Park. The clinic provides comprehensive surgical and non-surgical services for a wide range of foot and ankle issues, including chronic pain, injuries, tendonitis, arthritis, and more. Patients of all ages benefit from personalized treatment plans delivered by dedicated orthopedic and podiatric specialists.

## Celebrating Two Years of the K-State Clinical Research Partnership

The Stormont Vail Health Manhattan campus opened in 2023, and the research collaboration between K-State and Stormont Vail Health was formalized that same year. Two years later, the Kansas State University and Stormont Vail research collaboration continues to support next-generation health care research, education, access and innovation by building collaboration among K-State faculty and students and Stormont Vail Health providers and patients.

K-State’s College of Arts and Sciences, College of Health and Human Sciences, Carl R. Ice College of Engineering and College of Veterinary Medicine have proposed ongoing projects with Stormont Vail Health. Some of these projects involve microvascular function in chemotherapy patients, brain health, motor function in stroke patients, medical devices and so much more.

## Listening to Our Communities: Advancing Health Through Community-Driven Care

Stormont Vail conducts a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years to identify priority health needs and social challenges across the communities it serves. Recent results identified behavioral health, neighborhood safety and housing, healthy food access, and health equity as key focus areas in Shawnee County, while Geary County priorities include access to resources, youth development, transportation, obesity, and mental health.

These priorities guide our three year Hospital Implementation Plan, translating community needs into coordinated initiatives. One example is the expansion of Walk with a Doc in Junction City, a low barrier program promoting physical activity and health education.

Building on CHNA findings, our strategic focus centers on expanding access to behavioral health services across the region and advancing maternal health in Shawnee County. Behavioral health initiatives include expanding clinical space and providers, increasing virtual and extended hours care, and implementing innovative access models to support an additional 6,000 visits.

Maternal health efforts in Shawnee County emphasize early engagement, coordinated care, and family support through prenatal care access, social needs screening, community events, and partnerships creating a comprehensive, community centered approach.

# 2025 AT A GLANCE

## WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITY.

FY October 2024 - September 2025

Stormont Vail Health is an integrated healthcare system based in Topeka, Kansas, composed of acute care hospitals in Topeka and Junction City, an inpatient behavioral health hospital in Topeka, and a large primary and specialty medical group. Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka and Cotton O’Neil joined in 1995 to form Stormont Vail Health. The Stormont Vail Flint Hills Hospital and Rural Health Clinic in Junction City joined the system in 2023. Stormont Vail also has partnerships with Kansas Rehabilitation Hospital and Manhattan Surgical Hospital.

### STORMONT VAIL HEALTH TOPEKA CAMPUS

Licensed Beds	586
Births	1,583
Surgeries	16,241
Inpatient Admissions	19,904
Emergency Visits	54,214
Outpatient Visits	185,609

### STORMONT VAIL HEALTH FLINT HILLS CAMPUS

Licensed Beds	49
Births	303
Surgeries <small>(changed definition from last year)</small>	538
Inpatient Admissions	1,392
Emergency Visits	15,081
Outpatient Visits	49,075

### COTTON O’NEIL CLINIC & FLINT HILLS RURAL HEALTH CLINIC

Primary Care & Specialty Clinics	30+
Express Care/Walk-In Visits	Topeka: 77,243; FHC: 8,712
Clinic Visits	Topeka: 876,473; FHC: 41,161

Unique Patients Served 227,805

### STORMONT VAIL HEALTH

Employed Physicians	286
Employed Advanced Practice Providers	297
Employees	5,990
Volunteer Hours	34,006
Total Consolidated Assets	\$1,198,040,000
Consolidated Operating Revenue	\$1,165,170,666
Community Benefit	\$65,780,158*

*Stormont Vail Health covered the cost of \$77,042,710 (amount of charges written off for charity, not cost)*

*\*As reported on our most recent IRS Form 990*

# OPERATING COMMITTEE



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President & Chief Executive Officer



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Senior Vice President & Chief Medical & Quality Officer



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Surgery



**Shaun Steeby, M.D.**  
Executive Medical  
Director of  
Orthopedics/  
Neurosurgery/Podiatry



**Wade Stinson, M.D.**  
Executive Medical  
Director of Trauma  
Surgery

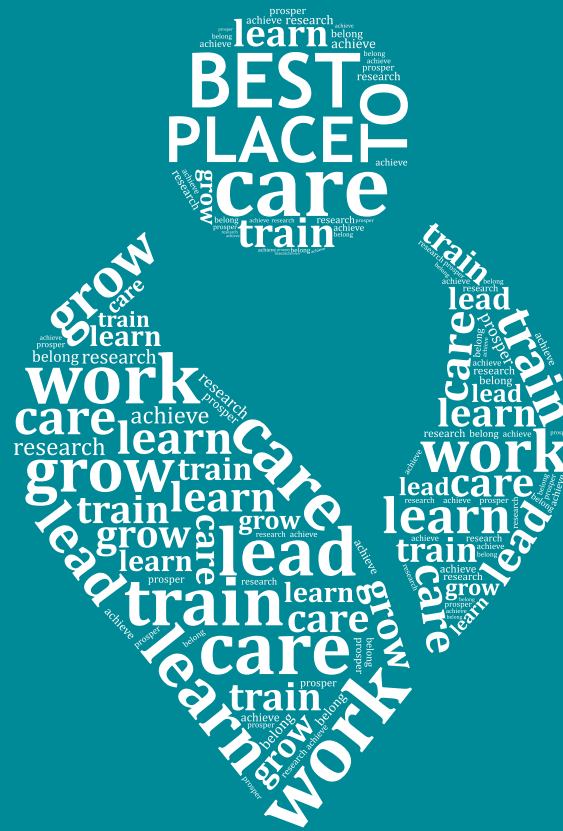
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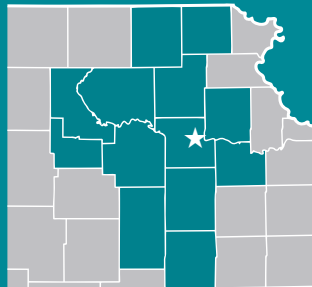
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# we are Stormont



## Stormont Vail Health

Serving a multicounty region in Kansas, Stormont Vail Health features the region's only **Level II Trauma Center** and **Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit**. Stormont Vail provides primary and specialty care for patients in **Topeka, Manhattan, Junction City, and Emporia**, along with clinics in surrounding communities of **Carbondale, Emporia, Meriden, Netawaka, Osage City, Oskaloosa, and Wamego**.



The Stormont Vail organization is a **Mayo Clinic Care Network** member, meaning our experts have experts. The network provides Stormont Vail physicians access to top-tier expertise, innovative research, and collaboration on treatment options for complex medical conditions. Additionally, being a **Magnet Designated** facility reflects the organization's dedication to nursing excellence, providing patients with the highest standards of care, and fostering an environment of continuous improvement in patient outcomes.



1500 S.W. 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604 | [stormontvail.org](http://stormontvail.org)