



## The need for our heart expertise is accelerating.

Heart disease is the number one killer of men and women in the U.S., and currently accounts for nearly 30% of all deaths in Williamson County. With the expected population growth of more than 10% over the next five years and an increase of more than 40,000 people ages 45+ in Williamson County, we must grow our ability to care for cardiovascular patients. Ascension Seton Williamson expects to see a 15% increase over the next five years in visits from patients who need our comprehensive, life-saving cardiovascular services. Serving these patients requires enhancing and expanding our comprehensive cardiac program. Investments in leading-edge technology, programs and physicians are vital to ensure that these patients can get the care they need right here in Williamson County.

**Our goal is to not just meet the high demand for our services, but to raise the level of care through shortened wait times, increased presence in the communities we serve, advanced diagnostic imaging technologies and reduced hospital stays. Our goal is to be the leading provider in Williamson County for high-quality, patient-centered cardiac care.**

4,000+

**CARDIAC PATIENTS**

are seen each year at Ascension Seton Williamson.

10%

**GROWTH**

of inpatient cardiovascular patients at Ascension Seton Williamson is expected over next 5 years.

20%

**GROWTH**

in outpatient cardiovascular patients is expected over the next five years, (more than 2x the national average).

### FUNDING PRIORITY

Invest in improved facilities and better equipment to build a Hybrid Operating Room to enhance physician's capabilities to treat complex vascular patients

Expand comprehensive cardiac programs, including Heart Saver CT scans, Cardiac Rehabilitation, and improvements to the cath lab.

## A regular day at home took a turn for the worst.

It was just like any other day. Michael was in the yard, building a fire pit. It was hot outside—over 100—but Michael was used to working in that sort of Texas heat. But something was off.

Michael didn't feel well. He was feeling overheated and his gut told him something was seriously wrong. His father had passed away from a heart attack at the age of 75, so Michael knew to take health concerns seriously.

After he and his wife spoke to their daughter—a commander with Austin EMS—they started to drive to the hospital. En route, they decided to stop at their nearby fire station to get Michael medical care as quickly as possible. Michael was promptly sent by ambulance to Ascension Seton Williamson. Upon arriving, the medical staff immediately ran tests to locate the issue. On the outside, Michael was asymptomatic—no visible signs or history of heart troubles—but the staff wouldn't give up figuring out what was wrong that easily. After several tests, the blood work came back suggesting a heart attack.

Cardiologist Dr. Tannon Carroll wanted to perform an angiogram and angioplasty immediately. He cleared one artery that was 100% blocked and inserted a stent. After a couple days recovering in the ICU, Michael was out of the hospital and feeling great. "I immediately felt better. [It was] truly amazing for significant surgery." He even felt well enough to go back to work the next day, but his family told him to relax.

When Michael reflects back on his experience at Ascension Seton Williamson, he likes to use the phrase "compassionate confidence." "They were not poo-pooing my situation," he says. "There was a belief that I was having a serious issue, even though there was only slight pain." Today he's completing two months of cardiac rehab to ensure he exerts energy in a heart-healthy way. "The staff there is awesome. They will stop me from injuring myself and are helping me build up to doing the things I did before the [heart attack]. [They give me] the confidence to work out but know I'm protected."

He is now a big believer in staying heart healthy. He takes his follow-up appointments with his Ascension Seton Williamson cardiology team seriously, and he encourages all of his friends to get preventative care for their heart. "The good news is," Michael says about his heart event, "I'm the messenger to my friends [now]."

*“The good news is, now I’m the messenger of health to my friends.”*

MICHAEL PAZZAGLINI

