

Comeback of a Lifetime



What We Do

Provide comprehensive treatment, prevention, and rehabilitation for patients with diseases of the nervous system and spine and advance neuroscience research and education

“Without Saint Luke’s and a wonderful miracle from above, I wouldn’t be alive today.”

**Heather Williams,
stroke survivor**

A new medical device—first used locally at Saint Luke’s Hospital—kept young Heather Williams from succumbing to a stroke

Chirpy, nimble-fingered, and athletic, Heather Williams enjoyed chatting up customers in her mother’s tea room and icing intricate flourishes on cakes for hungry clientele.

Then one afternoon, her day took a life-threatening turn.

“I was sitting on my bed and suddenly threw up. Then I went to the kitchen to make a sandwich and spread peanut butter on the counter instead of the bread,” said Williams of Paola, Kan.

“It was weird. I didn’t have a

headache, I couldn’t feel anything, and I could hardly stand.”

Her husband called paramedics, who suspected she was having a stroke. Williams was only 28.

Help in a Hurry

Fortunately, paramedics bypassed the local hospital and rushed her by medical helicopter to Saint Luke’s Mid America Brain and Stroke Institute, a regional referral center with nationally recognized intervention techniques.

First, doctors shot a clot-busting drug directly into Williams’ blockage. Then they removed it with a new corkscrew-shaped mechanical device called the Merci Retrieval System, which twists blockages out like corks from wine bottles. Saint Luke’s is one of the few hospitals in the country routinely using the device—and it saved Williams’ life.

Such cutting-edge treatments helped the Brain and Stroke Institute earn recognition as one of the nation’s Top 100 stroke programs, as well as accolades from *Time* magazine, *The New York Times*, and TV’s Discovery Channel.

A Changed Life

With help from generous donors like you, the Brain and Stroke Institute can continue with research and therapies that stop stroke in its tracks—and a whole lot more.

Williams is just one of many patients who benefit. Four months after her stroke, she was able-bodied and back at work, with minimal impairments.

“Without Saint Luke’s and a wonderful miracle from above,” Williams said, “I wouldn’t be alive today.”

Visit our web site
saintlukeshealthsystem.org
to make an immediate gift



How Your Gift Will Help

Contributions help patients with strokes and other neurological disorders through:

- Research initiatives for stroke, brain tumors, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, and Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease
- Specialized equipment for diagnosis, treatment, and neurosurgery
- Patient and family resources
- Community education and health screenings
- Training for nurses, students, and medical residents