



The need for our heart expertise is accelerating.

Our county's first open-heart surgery was performed at Ascension Seton Hays in 2009. Today Ascension Seton Hays continues to be the regional leader in advanced heart and vascular care and remains the only place in the county to have open heart surgery. We cannot stop there. Heart disease is the number one killer of men and women in the U.S., and the population in Hays and the surrounding areas is increasing and aging. Over the next five years, we expect to see an increase of more than 500 heart patients annually in the area we serve. In order to provide exceptional cardiovascular care we must invest in leading-edge technology advancements while expanding our services and increasing the quantity and quality of our care. This will help us maintain our leading care position in the region.

Our goal is to not just meet our high demand, 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.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Further enhance our capacity to serve Cardiac patients by expanding our geographic Cardiac presence, continuing to recruit Cardiac physicians, increase use of telemedicine focused on Cardiac consultations with our regional hospital, and establishing a Women's Heart Health Outreach program.

Invest in improved facilities and better equipment by building a Hybrid Operating Room that will enhance physician's capabilities to treat complex vascular patients, renovating and upgrading for Radiation Safety in our current labs, and acquiring vein ablation equipment to treat vein disorders.

1 in 4

DEATHS

occur among patients with heart disease.

9%

INCREASE

in Cardiovascular services is projected over the next 5 years.

872

PATIENTS

had to leave Hays and Caldwell Counties to receive Cardiovascular care in 2017.

A Cardiology Story

One Heartbeat | SETON FOUNDATIONS



Look at me now.

Five. That's how many heart attacks Tom Shelton has had in the past 17 years...that we know of. But you would never guess that by looking at Tom. Two years ago he ran his first half marathon, and today he walks 30 miles each week. It was a long journey getting here—a journey full of peaks and valleys.

Tom's first heart attack occurred at the age of 40 and another two within months of each other. His doctors at that time determined he needed a double by-pass. Thankfully, no more heart attacks for 14 years. Then, all of a sudden #4 happened.

By the fourth heart attack, Tom was in the expert care of Ascension Seton Hays and cardiologist Dr. Vamsi Krishna, MD. Dr. Krishna and his team performed surgery to save Tom's life and kept Tom's family informed throughout the entire process. After the surgery, Dr. Krishna told Tom he needed to make big life changes in order to stay healthy. So Tom did. He stopped eating "Texas-sized plates" and lost 35 pounds, started walking every day and he ran a half-marathon. Tom has continued to maintain good habits and walks 20-30 miles each week. He's even inspired and engaged his colleagues in a walking group during the week.

Tom felt like he wasn't just a number at Ascension Seton Hays—he felt like a living, breathing individual who was cared for and looked after. Tom can't point to just one person who helped him at Seton—*he points to everyone*—starting with the front desk attendant who took his symptoms seriously and sent him directly to the emergency room.

He attributes being alive to the expert care and concern he received at Ascension Seton Hays. "They supported me when I needed them, and they empowered me to change my life so that I can be here for my wife and daughters for years to come."

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[Ascension] Seton pushed me. I never thought I'd do a marathon at 54 years old, but they led me to believe that I could.

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TOM SHELTON