



35 YEARS of Distinguished Leadership and Transformation

Richard A. Anderson
President & CEO
St. Luke's University Health Network

In 1985, the same year Microsoft released Windows, the Live Aid concerts took place in Philadelphia and London and *Goonies* was the most popular movie, Richard A. Anderson assumed leadership of St. Luke's Hospital in Fountain Hill. Over the next 35 years, Rick propelled a single community hospital into a nationally recognized and integrated network of 11 hospitals, 16,000 employees and over 1,200 employed physicians and advanced practitioners. In the process he became the longest tenured CEO of a hospital system in America.

Rick has led the way in understanding how important it is to retain physicians and nurses in our community, especially as competition grows for these scarce resources across our nation. He drove St. Luke's to invest in and grow what is now the nation's oldest continuously operating School of Nursing, graduating over 130 RNs each year. But he didn't stop there. Working cooperatively with Temple University School of Medicine, he helped create the region's first and only medical school campus based in Fountain Hill with 120 medical students receiving their education and training, locally. St. Luke's also educates and trains 347 residents and fellows in 38 accredited medical and surgical programs. Together, these educational commitments qualify St. Luke's as an academic medical center. In comparison to other academic centers, St. Luke's has been ranked as one of America's top hospitals eight times by the Watson Health's 100 Top Hospitals program and as one of the best hospitals in the world by Newsweek.

As is the case with most great leaders, Rick redirects personal credit for his many accomplishments to the guidance and decision-making of St. Luke's Board of Trustees, capable management team and the thousands of employees providing or supporting patient care. Many of these accomplishments contain Rick's DNA and are the direct result of his personal commitments which include: choosing to only use American steel in construction, conserving natural resources when possible and honoring the traditions of those who came before us and founded our communities. Each fall, Rick's "Coats for Kids" initiative provides coats for those less fortunate, and his community health focus ensures dental and primary care are offered to children regardless of a family's ability to pay. Culture always starts at the top, and it is the culture of St. Luke's that enables more than 16,000 people to work together to improve the lives of others.

What can you say to someone who has raised the standard of health care in our region and beyond, maintained a focus on the less fortunate and who has dedicated 35 years of his life to build, grow and challenge an organization to always be the best it can be? As Rick would say, keep it simple. So we will. Thank you, Rick!

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Born the son of a plumber and raised in a working-class town in western Pennsylvania, Rick has always honored his humble roots and the importance of family. He often encourages those he leads to spend time with family and to maintain a work-life balance. Despite the long hours Rick has committed to his profession, he has the full support of his wife of 41 years, Helen, his daughter Lauren and his grandson Raymond. On many weekends Rick can be found teaching Raymond about birdwatching, enjoying the fun of a tractor ride through the gardens Rick has cultivated on his property. These traditional values are the foundation of Rick's ongoing dedication to help those less fortunate and making exceptional health care available to all.

Rick is a fierce but fair competitor. Throughout his youth, Rick chose to compete in swimming and his relentless dedication to improvement earned him a spot on the University of Illinois swim team where he went on to earn a three-year varsity letter.

Rick's passion for putting patients first and his relentless focus on quality and service is matched by his belief that excellent quality should cost less, not more. He instills in his team that there is a limited amount of money available for health care and it should be used wisely. Almost single handedly, he led an effort across our state to reform health care malpractice law because of his belief that a system had been created to reward frivolous lawsuits against physicians and hospitals that were unnecessarily driving up the cost of health care. Rick does not care about political correctness; he cares about results that better serve the community.

Thank you, Rick!

While guiding the growth and expansion of St. Luke's, Rick has articulated several "Health Priorities" supported by actionable objectives and measurable results. The priorities include improving access to care and reducing health disparities; promoting healthy lifestyles and preventing chronic disease; and improving child, adolescent and elder health as well as mental and behavioral health – lofty priorities for some, but not for someone with vision and an untiring commitment to improving the lives of others.

Such priorities have yielded some of St. Luke's, and indeed Rick's, most defining achievements. St. Luke's has the region's largest and most acclaimed trauma program, fitness and sports medicine centers and advanced orthopedic and cardiac services. St. Luke's cancer program is internationally recognized, and its neurosciences program leads the region in the care of movement disorders. The list goes on and on. This combination of clinical excellence, disciplined operational expertise and financial management restored the community's faith in a number of area hospitals that joined St. Luke's.

