



Stormont Vail
Health

Foundation President

Leadership Profile

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The Opportunity

Stormont Vail Health seeks an experienced, strategic, and relationship-driven leader to serve as its next Foundation President. This is an exceptional opportunity to lead philanthropy for one of Kansas' most respected nonprofit health systems at a pivotal moment in its history. With strong support from executive leadership, an engaged Foundation Board, and significant organizational momentum, the Foundation is poised to expand its impact, strengthen its role as a strategic partner to the health system, and build upon a longstanding tradition of philanthropy to support the next generation of healthcare innovation and community impact.

The Foundation President serves as the chief philanthropy officer and senior fundraising leader for Stormont Vail Health, providing vision, strategy, and leadership for all fundraising, donor engagement, community relations, and Foundation activities across the health system. Reporting directly to Mark Slyter, President and Chief Executive Officer, the President will work closely with health system leadership, physicians, the Foundation Board, donors, and community stakeholders to build a culture of philanthropy that supports organizational priorities and enhances patient care throughout eastern Kansas.

The next President will have the opportunity to elevate and expand the Foundation's philanthropic reach through major gifts, planned giving, corporate and Foundation relations, grants, grateful patient programs, and community partnerships. Stakeholders consistently described significant untapped philanthropic potential, including opportunities to engage new donors, strengthen physician and employee philanthropy, expand grant funding, develop deeper relationships with national foundations and corporate partners, and increase awareness of the remarkable work occurring throughout the health system.

The next President will have a unique opportunity to shape the future of philanthropy at Stormont Vail Health by building upon a strong foundation and helping create a best-in-class fundraising enterprise. As a highly respected, independent health system with engaged leadership and significant organizational momentum, Stormont Vail offers the opportunity for a transformational leader to take true ownership of the Foundation's strategy, expand philanthropic and grant-supported initiatives, and leave a lasting legacy on the organization and the communities it serves.

A defining opportunity for the next leader will be providing leadership for campaign planning, feasibility assessment, and execution of a significant capital campaign supporting major strategic investments, including anticipated campus expansion, facility enhancements, workforce development initiatives, and growth in women's and children's services. The Foundation President will guide campaign readiness efforts, assess philanthropic capacity, build volunteer leadership, develop a compelling case for support, and position the organization for transformational philanthropy.

The Foundation President will lead and mentor a dedicated Foundation team while serving as a trusted partner to executive leadership and the Foundation Board. The successful candidate will bring a demonstrated record of fundraising success, campaign leadership experience, and the ability to build authentic relationships across a broad range of constituents. This leader will help strengthen the alignment between philanthropy and organizational strategy, elevate Stormont Vail's visibility throughout Kansas and beyond, and inspire donors to invest in the future of healthcare across the region.

Organization Overview

Stormont Vail Health is the leading nonprofit, integrated health system serving eastern Kansas and is widely recognized as a trusted provider of high-quality, patient-centered care across the region. Headquartered in Topeka, Kansas, and operating with an annual revenue of \$1.1 billion, the organization delivers a comprehensive continuum of care through its hospitals, specialty services, physician practices, outpatient clinics, urgent and express care locations, and regional outreach initiatives. Stormont Vail serves as both a community healthcare provider and a regional referral destination, offering advanced clinical services while advancing education, workforce development, and community health.

For more than a century, Stormont Vail has played a central role in improving the health and well-being of Kansans. Today, the system's flagship medical center serves as one of the largest hospitals in the state and is supported by an extensive network of providers and care locations across eastern Kansas. The organization combines the resources and expertise of a sophisticated regional health system with a mission-driven commitment to ensuring access to care close to home.

Stormont Vail's commitment to clinical excellence is reflected in its broad range of specialty services, including cancer care, heart and vascular services, neurosciences, orthopedics, women's and children's services, trauma care, and behavioral health. The health system continues to invest in innovative technologies, physician recruitment, and strategic partnerships designed to enhance patient outcomes and expand access to high-quality care throughout its service area.

As one of the region's largest employers, Stormont Vail Health is powered by thousands of team members dedicated to delivering compassionate care and exceptional service. The organization places significant emphasis on professional development, medical education, workforce pipelines, and fostering a culture aligned with its mission to improve the health of the communities it serves. Through educational programs, clinical training opportunities, and community partnerships, Stormont Vail is helping shape the future healthcare workforce for Kansas.

Community stewardship remains central to Stormont Vail's identity. The health system invests substantially in initiatives that address broader community health needs, including preventive care, wellness education, rural health access, workforce development, and social determinants of health. Its commitment extends beyond the hospital walls, creating meaningful partnerships that strengthen the vitality and health of communities throughout the region.

The Stormont Vail Foundation serves as the philanthropic arm of the health system, advancing strategic priorities related to patient care, clinical innovation, technology, education, workforce development, and community health. The Foundation has established itself as a leading healthcare philanthropy organization in Kansas. Poised for continued growth, the Foundation is positioned to expand its impact through major gift fundraising, grants, community partnerships, and future campaign initiatives that will help shape the next chapter of healthcare excellence across eastern Kansas.

The Stormont Vail Foundation is currently the fifth-largest Foundation in the Topeka metropolitan area, an area where more than 121 grantmaking organizations manage a collective \$370 million in assets. The Foundation reached \$43.7 million in assets in 2024, continuing an upward trend from \$30.2 million in 2020. Total revenue jumped to \$6.3 million in 2024, a 68.2% increase from the previous year. In 2024, \$3.6 million came directly from contributions. The Foundation is highly efficient, with 100% of donor gifts going to their intended fund because Stormont Vail Health underwrites all administrative costs.

For more information, please visit [Home - Stormont Vail Health](#)

Position Summary

The President of the Stormont Vail Foundation serves as the chief philanthropy officer and senior fundraising leader for Stormont Vail Health, providing strategic leadership for all Foundation operations, fundraising programs, donor engagement, and philanthropic initiatives that advance the health system's mission and strategic priorities.

Reporting Relationships

Reporting directly to Mark Slyter, President and Chief Executive Officer of Stormont Vail Health, the President works in close partnership with executive leadership, physicians, the SVF and SVH Board of Directors, community leaders, and donors to expand philanthropy and strengthen Stormont Vail's impact across eastern Kansas.

Reporting directly to the Foundation President are:

- Executive Assistant (2)
- CMN Program Director and Special Events Manager
- Development Officer
- Manager, Philanthropy

Responsibilities

Strategic Philanthropy Leadership

- Lead the development and execution of a comprehensive philanthropy strategy aligned with Stormont Vail Health's strategic, capital, workforce, educational, research, and community health priorities.
- Assess donor readiness and philanthropic capacity for future major fundraising initiatives and campaigns designed to advance Stormont Vail Health's long-term strategic priorities.
- Establish fundraising goals, operating budgets, campaign priorities, performance metrics, and accountability measures that support the Foundation's continued growth and impact.
- Serve as a strategic advisor to the CEO, executive leadership team, Foundation Board, and health system leadership regarding philanthropic opportunities and priorities.
- Identify opportunities to position the Foundation for transformational philanthropy, including future capital, comprehensive, and targeted fundraising campaigns.

Fundraising and Donor Engagement

- Personally cultivate, solicit, and steward major, principal, planned, corporate, Foundation, and campaign gifts.
- Direct all aspects of donor identification, prospect research, qualification, cultivation, solicitation, stewardship, recognition, advocacy, and donor communications.
- Maintain a portfolio of major and principal gift prospects while partnering with executive leaders, physicians, board members, and community volunteers in donor engagement, cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship activities.
- Expand philanthropy through major gifts, planned giving, grateful patient programs, annual giving, corporate partnerships, donor-advised funds, and foundation and government grants.

- Advance strategies for securing significant grant funding from private foundations, corporations, public agencies, and federal and state sources.

Foundation Leadership and Operations

- Provide leadership and oversight for all Foundation operations, including fundraising, donor relations, stewardship, marketing, communications, grants management, financial administration, and strategic planning.
- Supervise, mentor, develop, and align Foundation staff and resources to achieve fundraising goals and organizational priorities.
- Build and sustain a high-performing culture characterized by accountability, collaboration, innovation, and donor-centered service.
- Oversee Foundation budgets, policies, operational infrastructure, and performance measurement systems.
- Utilize data, prospect management systems, fundraising analytics, and performance metrics to improve fundraising effectiveness, accountability, and return on philanthropic investment.
- Maintain professional expertise and remain current on emerging trends in healthcare philanthropy, fundraising, healthcare delivery, grant funding, and community engagement.

Board and Volunteer Engagement

- Serve as the principal staff liaison to the Stormont Vail Foundation Board of Directors, supporting the Board and its committees in advancing the Foundation's governance, strategic, and philanthropic priorities.
- Provide leadership and support to Foundation Board committees and volunteer leaders.
- Partner with Foundation Board members to identify, cultivate, and engage prospective donors, community advocates, and philanthropic champions throughout the region.
- Recruit, engage, educate, and inspire board members, campaign volunteers, and community ambassadors to advance the Foundation's mission and fundraising efforts.
- Foster strong relationships with physician leaders, community leaders, and other key stakeholders throughout the region.

Health System Partnership and Community Representation

- Partner closely with the CEO, executive leadership team, physicians, and operational leaders to foster a culture of philanthropy and position philanthropy as a strategic asset across Stormont Vail Health.
- Ensure philanthropic resources are aligned with organizational priorities while honoring donor intent and stewardship commitments.
- Serve as a visible ambassador for Stormont Vail Health and the Foundation throughout eastern Kansas and the broader region.
- Represent the Foundation at donor events, community gatherings, organizational functions, and health system initiatives.
- Promote awareness of the Foundation's mission, impact, and philanthropic opportunities among donors, community partners, and stakeholders.

Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives have been identified as priorities for this position:

- Successfully integrate into the culture of Stormont Vail Health and the Foundation, establishing credibility and trust with the Foundation Board, health system leadership, physicians, caregivers, community leaders, donors, and volunteers. Build strong relationships across the organization while demonstrating an appreciation for the values, traditions, and unique character of Topeka, eastern Kansas, and the broader region.
- Establish the Foundation as a leading healthcare philanthropy organization in the region by building a state-of-the-art fundraising operation, strengthening organizational capabilities, and creating a lasting philanthropic legacy that supports Stormont Vail Health's long-term strategic vision.
- Strengthen the Foundation's grant-seeking and institutional fundraising efforts by pursuing opportunities with regional and national foundations, corporate funders, and government partners. Expand the Foundation's pursuit of private, corporate, and public grant funding as a growing component of its overall philanthropic strategy. Develop strategies that diversify revenue sources and support priority programs focused on access to care, community health, workforce development, behavioral health, and other strategic initiatives.
- Strengthen the strategic alignment between the Foundation and the health system, ensuring philanthropic priorities directly support the organization's mission, strategic plan, growth initiatives, and community impact goals. Serve as a valued partner to the President, executive leadership team, physicians, and Board leadership.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive philanthropic strategy that advances annual giving, major gifts, planned giving, corporate partnerships, grants, grateful patient philanthropy, physician engagement, and endowment growth. Establish measurable goals, accountability metrics, and long-term fundraising objectives.
- Provide leadership for the planning, feasibility assessment, and execution of a significant comprehensive capital campaign supporting major strategic initiatives, including anticipated campus expansion, facility improvements, women's and children's services, workforce development initiatives, and other future capital priorities. Build the campaign infrastructure, case for support, volunteer engagement, and donor strategies necessary for success.
- Expand major gift fundraising by cultivating and stewarding relationships with transformational donors, corporate partners, private foundations, trusts, and philanthropic organizations throughout Kansas, the Midwest, and nationally. Position Stormont Vail as a compelling philanthropic investment and elevate awareness of its impact across the region.
- Increase the Foundation's visibility and influence throughout the communities served by Stormont Vail Health. Serve as an ambassador for the organization by actively engaging civic organizations, community leaders, businesses, professional associations, and philanthropic networks. Effectively communicate the organization's story and demonstrate the impact of donor support.
- Partner closely with physicians, caregivers, and operational leaders to enhance grateful patient and grateful family philanthropy programs. Develop systems and processes that identify philanthropic opportunities, strengthen donor engagement, and connect patients and families with meaningful giving opportunities.
- Work with the Foundation Board to maximize engagement, governance effectiveness, and philanthropic leadership. Recruit, develop, and inspire Board members while fostering stronger connections between Foundation and health system leadership to advance shared priorities.

- Lead, develop, and empower a high-performing Foundation team. Foster a collaborative, transparent, and mission-driven culture that values accountability, professional growth, innovation, and outstanding donor service. Evaluate organizational structure, resources, and processes to ensure the Foundation is positioned for long-term success and growth.

Candidate Qualifications

Education/Certification

- Bachelor's degree required; master's degree preferred.

Knowledge and Work Experience

- Progressive leadership experience in philanthropy, advancement, foundation leadership, healthcare fundraising, higher education, or a similarly complex nonprofit organization, including responsibility for fundraising strategy, board engagement, team leadership, and measurable fundraising outcomes.
- Demonstrated success securing major, principal, planned, corporate, and foundation gifts, including experience cultivating and closing transformational philanthropic investments.
- Experience identifying, writing, and managing grants from private foundations, corporations, and government agencies will be important, as grant funding represents a meaningful opportunity to advance strategic priorities, support innovative programs, and expand Stormont Vail Health's impact across the region.
- Track record of developing and executing comprehensive fundraising strategies that align philanthropic resources with organizational priorities and strategic goals.
- Experience leading significant fundraising initiatives, campaign readiness efforts, capital campaigns, comprehensive campaigns, or other multi-million-dollar fundraising endeavors.
- Knowledge of contemporary fundraising practices, including major gifts, annual giving, planned giving, grateful patient philanthropy, donor stewardship, corporate partnerships, foundation relations, and grant development.
- Demonstrated success building productive relationships with donors, board members, physicians, executives, volunteers, community leaders, and other key stakeholders.
- Experience partnering closely with chief executive officers, senior leadership teams, and governing boards to advance organizational priorities and foster a culture of philanthropy.
- Experience leading, mentoring, and developing high-performing teams and creating a culture of accountability, collaboration, and professional growth.
- Experience securing support from private foundations, corporations, public agencies, and other institutional funding sources is preferred.
- Healthcare philanthropy experience is preferred; however, candidates with exceptional fundraising, campaign leadership, and relationship-building credentials from other sectors will be given strong consideration.
- Familiarity with Kansas, the Midwest, rural healthcare markets, or similarly relationship-driven communities is strongly preferred. Existing relationships and credibility within Kansas philanthropic, healthcare, corporate, and civic communities are advantageous.

Leadership Skills and Competencies

- Proven fundraiser with the experience, credibility, and confidence to lead philanthropic growth and elevate the Foundation's fundraising performance.

- Authentic relationship builder who develops trust quickly and creates meaningful connections with donors, colleagues, physicians, board members, and community leaders.
- Strategic and forward-thinking leader who can assess opportunities, establish ambitious but achievable goals, and translate vision into results.
- Skilled communicator who can engage a wide range of audiences and effectively represent Stormont Vail Health and the Foundation throughout the community.
- Collaborative leader who partners effectively with physicians, executives, board members, volunteers, and donors to advance shared goals.
- Visible and engaged community ambassador who values relationship-building and is eager to become an active presence throughout Topeka, eastern Kansas, and the broader region, building trust with donors, volunteers, business leaders, and community stakeholders.
- Demonstrates sound judgment, professionalism, and emotional intelligence when navigating sensitive donor, patient, family, and community situations.
- Accessible and empowering leader who provides clear direction, values teamwork, and encourages others to succeed.
- Brings the humility, curiosity, and adaptability necessary to learn the organization, build credibility, and lead through growth and change.
- Appreciation for Midwest values and communities, with the ability to build authentic relationships across both urban and rural settings.

The Community

Topeka, Kansas

As the capital city of Kansas, Topeka offers the amenities of a vibrant metropolitan area combined with the accessibility, affordability, and sense of community often associated with smaller cities. Topeka is home to approximately 125,000 residents and serves as a regional hub for government, healthcare, education, commerce, and culture.

Residents enjoy a low cost of living, affordable housing options, and short commute times, allowing for an exceptional quality of life. The community offers a range of recreational opportunities, including more than 50 parks, extensive trail systems, golf courses, and access to outdoor activities throughout the Kansas River Valley. A growing arts and cultural scene, family-friendly attractions, local festivals, and diverse dining options contribute to the city's welcoming atmosphere.

Topeka's strategic location provides easy access to Kansas City, one of the Midwest's largest metropolitan regions, located approximately one hour away. This proximity offers convenient access to a major international airport, professional sports, cultural attractions, and additional business opportunities while allowing residents to enjoy the affordability and close-knit character of the Topeka community.

The city is also home to several higher education institutions, including Washburn University, and benefits from a strong network of civic, philanthropic, and business leaders committed to the region's continued growth and success. Topeka is a relationship-driven community where authenticity, visibility, and long-term engagement are highly valued, making community involvement and trust-building important elements of leadership success. With a rich history, strong sense of community pride, and growing economic momentum, Topeka provides an attractive environment for professionals and families alike.

Stormont Vail Health serves as one of the region's most trusted and influential institutions, playing a critical role in advancing the health and well-being of communities across Kansas. As an anchor organization and major employer, Stormont Vail's caregivers and leaders have the opportunity to make a meaningful impact both within the organization and throughout the communities it serves.

Procedure for Candidacy

Please direct all inquiries, nominations, and applications to Donna Padilla, Ashlee Musser, and Jess Commings through the WittKieffer Candidate Portal by [clicking here](#). New users should select “Register Here” to create an account before proceeding. After logging in, navigate to “Open Positions,” then locate the role by entering the institution’s name and clicking the search wheel. For additional information, please contact Jess Commings via email at jcummings@wittkieffer.com.

Stormont Vail is an equal opportunity employer and adheres to the philosophy and practice of providing equal opportunities for all employees and prospective employees, without regard to the following classifications: race, color, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, religion, national origin, citizenship, age, marital status, uniformed service, disability or genetic information. This applies to all aspects of employment practices including hiring, firing, pay, benefits, promotions, lateral movements, job training, and any other terms or conditions of employment.

Retaliation is prohibited against any person who files a claim of discrimination, participates in a discrimination investigation, or otherwise opposes an unlawful employment act based upon the above classifications.

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