



OSF[®]
HEALTHCARE

President & Chief Development Officer, OSF Foundation

Leadership Profile

February 2026

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WittKieffer

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The Opportunity

OSF HealthCare seeks a seasoned, systems-minded fundraising executive to serve as President of the OSF HealthCare Foundation and Chief Development Officer (CDO) for OSF HealthCare. Reporting directly to the CEO and serving on the executive cabinet—the system’s highest-level decision-making body—the CDO is the senior executive responsible for shaping and advancing the vision, strategy, and performance of all philanthropic efforts across the Ministry.

As the system’s top development leader, the CDO provides strategic direction and executive oversight for a comprehensive fundraising enterprise that includes Major Giving, Planned Giving, Annual Giving, Community Events, Corporate and Foundation Relations, and Philanthropic Operations. This leader ensures a unified, high-performing approach that drives transformational giving and strengthens donor relationships throughout the multi-regional, Catholic health system.

The next CDO will build on a strong culture of philanthropy and deep donor goodwill while enhancing operational discipline, team capacity, and enterprise infrastructure to scale philanthropic growth. As a key ambassador for the Mission of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, the CDO forges meaningful engagement with donors, community partners, and civic leaders to elevate support and awareness of OSF’s heritage and strategic priorities.

In close partnership with OSF executive leadership, the CDO will ensure philanthropy and grant strategies align with system priorities and long-term goals. This includes guiding coordinated efforts to secure private, corporate, and public grants that advance clinical innovation, academic excellence, and research. Through visionary leadership, disciplined execution, and a commitment to relationship-driven philanthropy, the CDO ensures philanthropic and grant-seeking initiatives meaningfully contribute to the growth, sustainability, and mission-focused impact of OSF HealthCare.

This is a pivotal moment for OSF. The organization is advancing destination programs in children’s health, neurosciences, cancer, and cardiovascular care, with a substantial innovation presence—priorities that are highly compelling to donors. The Foundation has raised meaningful dollars in recent years; the charge now is to mature the development function, broaden the donor base beyond historically central markets, and convert institutional ambition into sustained philanthropic performance. A major system building and expansion plan over the next decade will require campaign leadership, research funding growth, and deeper alignment with clinical and academic priorities.

The ideal candidate will bring a proven track record of leading major and comprehensive campaigns from inception to completion, experience cultivating transformational gifts, and success in building and mentoring high-performing development teams. They should demonstrate strategic vision, exceptional relationship-building skills, and the ability to engage boards and volunteer leadership effectively. Healthcare philanthropy experience is preferred, but candidates with diverse fundraising backgrounds and a history of driving significant revenue growth in mission-driven organizations are encouraged to apply.

Further details regarding nominations and applications for this esteemed role are available in the "Procedure for Candidacy" section below.

Organization Overview

OSF HealthCare, an integrated health system founded by The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, is headquartered in Peoria, Illinois. OSF HealthCare employs almost 27,000 Mission Partners in 174 locations, including 18 inpatient facilities with 2,141 licensed beds, and two colleges of nursing throughout Illinois and Michigan. The OSF HealthCare physician network employs more than 2,433 primary care, specialist, and advanced practice providers. There are 158 OSF Medical Group primary care and specialty care clinics and 39 urgent care locations throughout the Ministry. The largest hospital, OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois, is a tertiary/quaternary care teaching center providing numerous specialty services and extensive residency programs for physicians. OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois, also located in Peoria, is the third largest pediatric hospital in the state.

OSF HealthCare, through OSF Home Care Services, operates an extensive network of home health and hospice services. It also owns Pointcore Inc., comprised of health care-related businesses; OSF HealthCare Foundation, the philanthropic arm for the organization; and OSF Ventures, which provides investment capital for promising health care innovation startups. Additionally, its digital health operating entity, OSF OnCall, advances scalable, technology-enabled care models such as virtual nursing, hospital-at-home and remote condition monitoring.

Transforming Health Care

OSF HealthCare launched OSF Innovation in 2016 to embrace change and address the most significant challenges in modern health care. As a core component of this initiative, Jump Simulation—a collaboration between OSF HealthCare and the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria—serves as a leading hub for health care education, simulation, and innovation. Through advanced simulation, research, discovery, and applied science, Jump works to transform global health care by improving outcomes and reducing costs, using simulation not only to educate and train clinicians but also to test new methods, technologies, and devices and to develop innovative solutions for clinical training and care delivery. Its home, the Jump Training Simulation & Education Center, is recognized as one of the largest and most advanced simulation and innovation centers in the world, supporting multidisciplinary teams dedicated to shaping the future of health care.

Recognized twice by Fortune as one of America's Most Innovative Companies in 2025 and 2023, OSF HealthCare continues to make headlines for pioneering advancements, including:

- A historic first: Successfully implanting the world's first extravascular implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (EV-ICD) in a 2-year-old patient who suffered sudden cardiac arrest.
- Faster, seamless cancer care: Launching a rapid access program at OSF HealthCare Cancer Institute to speed up and streamline patient access.
- At-home pediatric monitoring: Developing a program for RSV and other respiratory illnesses to reduce hospital visits.
- AI-powered rare disease detection: Utilizing AI and Large Language Models to enhance primary care diagnostics.
- Revolutionizing concussion diagnosis: Creating *FlightPath*, a cloud-based app that uses AI and eye-tracking to diagnose concussions within minutes.
- Enhancing clinical efficiency: Piloting AI-driven software that listens to clinician-patient conversations and generates real-time clinical documentation.

- Advancing early cancer detection: Testing AI technology to improve the identification of potential cancerous polyps during colonoscopies.
- Shaping the future of AI in health care: As one of 38 payers and providers partnering with the White House, OSF is helping define responsible AI-driven change in the industry.

Mission, Vision & Values

Mission

In the spirit of Christ and the example of Francis of Assisi, the Mission of OSF HealthCare is to serve persons with the greatest care and love in a community that celebrates the Gift of Life.

Vision

Embracing God's great gift of life, we are one OSF Ministry transforming health care to improve the lives of those we serve.

Philosophy & Values

The Sisters of The Third Order of St. Francis believe: That led by the Spirit of the Gospels and the example of St. Francis, the special purpose of our existence as a corporation is to provide for the total well-being of those we serve. That every person, created in the image of God and composed of body and soul, is a human being endowed with intellect and free will, completely dependent upon God for existence and destined to possess God in heavenly beatitude. Because of the dignity of the human person and his moral conscience, each person has certain God-given rights with corresponding obligations toward his Creator, his fellow man and himself. OSF HealthCare fulfills, through a service of love and compassion, a Mission of caring and peace consistent with the needs of the Church and the people served. The love of Christ permeates its work as it strives to continue the healing ministry of Christ and His Church to the total person; to be love, mercy, inspiration, tenderness, and compassion to those whose lives are entered.

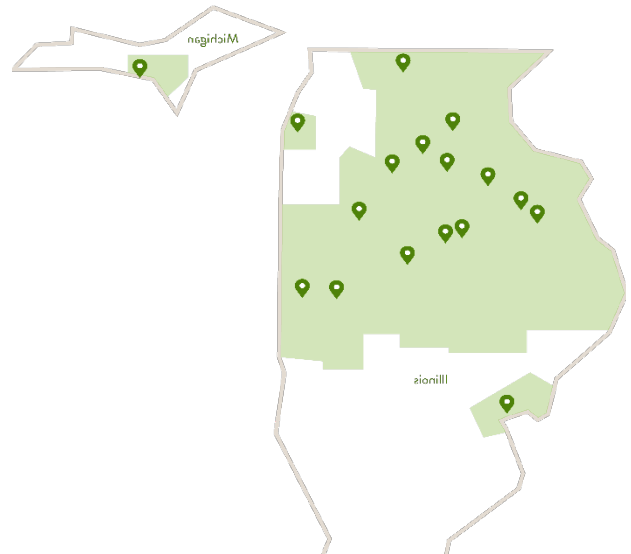
From this philosophy flow these values which permeate all endeavors:

- **JUSTICE:** Personal worth and dignity of every person we serve regardless of race, color, religion, and ability to pay
- **COMPASSION:** Caring response to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the people we serve
- **INTEGRITY:** Decision-making based on Catholic ethical principles and Catholic social teachings in every activity of the system
- **TEAMWORK:** Collaboration with each other, with physicians, and with other providers to deliver comprehensive, integrated and quality health care
- **EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING:** Concern for the physical, spiritual, emotional, and economic well-being of employees
- **SUPPORTIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT:** Quality work environments which focus on comprehensive, integrated quality service and opportunities for employee growth
- **TRUST:** Open and honest communication to foster trust relationships among ourselves and with those we serve

- **STEWARDSHIP:** Responsible stewardship of the financial, human, and technological resources of the system
- **LEADERSHIP:** Leadership in the health field and in the communities we serve

History

The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis were founded in Peoria on July 16, 1877, by Mother M. Frances Krasse, O.S.F., and Bishop John Lancaster Spalding. Property was obtained in 1877 for St. Francis Hospital, which is the present-day site of OSF Saint Francis Medical Center. Later that year, St. Joseph’s Hospital in Bloomington, Illinois, was established, moving in 1968 to its present site, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center. In 1884, five sisters were sent to Escanaba, Michigan, to begin working at Delta County Hospital. In 1915, the Sisters purchased that hospital and renamed it OSF St. Francis Hospital. By then, the Sisters were already operating St. Anthony Hospital, which they established in Rockford, Illinois, in 1899. The hospital in Rockford moved in 1963 to a new facility, known today as OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center.



For more information on OSF HealthCare, visit <https://www.osfhealthcare.org>.

OSF HealthCare: Facts & Figures

OSF HealthCare provides state-of-the-art, compassionate care to nearly 3 million people in the communities it serves.

Employed Providers & Mission Partners

Physicians	1,450
Advanced practice providers	983
Total Mission Partners	27,000

FY25 Financial Overview

Total Net Revenue	\$5,300,00,000
Foundation Contribution	\$23,485,337

Hospitals & Medical Centers

Facility	Location	Licensed Beds
OSF Sacred Heart Medical Center – Urbana	Urbana, Illinois	65

OSF Sacred Heart Medical Center	Danville, Illinois	174
OSF Holy Family Medical Center	Monmouth, Illinois	23
OSF Little Company of Mary Medical Center	Evergreen Park, Illinois	274
OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center	Rockford, Illinois	241
OSF Saint Anthony's Health Center	Alton, Illinois	49
OSF Saint Clare Medical Center	Princeton, Illinois	25
OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center - Ottawa	Ottawa, Illinois	80
OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center - Peru	Peru, Illinois	64
OSF Saint Francis Medical Center	Peoria, Illinois	642
OSF Saint James - John W. Albrecht Medical Center	Pontiac, Illinois	42
OSF Saint Katharine Medical Center	Dixon, Illinois	80
OSF Saint Luke Medical Center	Kewanee, Illinois	25
OSF Saint Paul Medical Center	Mendota, Illinois	25
OSF St. Francis Hospital & Medical Group	Escanaba, Michigan	25
OSF St. Joseph Medical Center	Bloomington, Illinois	177
OSF St. Mary Medical Center	Galesburg, Illinois	83
OSF HealthCare Divine Mercy Continuing Care Hospital	Peoria, Illinois	47

Data through January 2026

OSF HealthCare Foundation

The OSF HealthCare Foundation advances the Mission of OSF HealthCare through strategic, purpose-driven philanthropy—rooted in partnership, gratitude, and impact. Inspired by the legacy of the Sisters, who embraced community resources to care for all, the foundation focuses on deepening relationships with its donors and connecting their passions to transformational opportunities across the Ministry. The Foundation's charge is to ensure philanthropy at OSF HealthCare not only sustains its Mission—but propels it forward with boldness and faith.

While the OSF HealthCare Foundation's management plan falls under Ministry Sustainability, overall, the good that we do in partnership with donors enhances and elevates several of our strategic areas of focus. Success in our philanthropic initiatives ensures that we have resources and opportunities for bold visions centered on the institutes and hospitals throughout the Ministry. Our core programs of **Grateful Patient, Mission Partner Giving and Culture of Philanthropy engage** all in opportunities to participate in philanthropy and the result of donor dollars at work fuels essentials such as access to care, ground-break technology and research. Philanthropy can impact our culture of gratitude to elevate Mission Partner engagement. As the Sisters and our leadership continue to embrace donors as part of the OSF family, we will continue to enable and encourage all to pursue the Mission with time, talent and treasure.

Mission

The OSF HealthCare Foundation serves to help ensure the future integrity of the OSF HealthCare Mission: *“In the spirit of Christ and the example of Francis of Assisi, the Mission of OSF HealthCare is to serve persons with the greatest care and love in a community that celebrates the gift of life.”* We work to:

- Cultivate and maintain positive, mutually beneficial relationships with donors
- Encourage participation from volunteers and donors
- Plan and execute fundraising events
- Provide accurate appropriation and responsible stewardship of all donor gifts
- Spread awareness of OSF HealthCare Mission

Overview of Performance as of June 2025

DESCRIPTION	2019-2021	2022-2024	30-Jun-25
Total Recorded Contributions	33,057,158	24,973,291	20,100,100
Investment Income	22,446,923	15,096,300	5,445,414
Grants	13,144,715	24,501,796	9,754,258
Total Net Assets	272,795,432	326,787,092	374,196,121

Position Summary

Reporting Relationships

The President/Chief Development Officer (CDO) of the OSF HealthCare Foundation will report directly to the CEO of OSF HealthCare.

Direct reports to the CDO include the Vice President of Development, Vice President of Foundation Operations, and Vice President of Philanthropy, Academic Partners, & Breakthrough Strategy. This role provides leadership, administrative oversight, and strategic direction for an integrated and proactive development program that includes Major Giving, Planned Giving, Annual Giving, Community Events, and Philanthropic Operations. There are 61 professional staff supporting the Foundation.

Responsibilities

The successful CDO candidate will:

Strategic Leadership

- Define and execute Foundation strategy that aligns donors with the Mission and Strategic Areas of focus for OSF Healthcare.
- Lead comprehensive fundraising programs, including annual giving, major gifts, planned giving, grants, and capital campaigns.
- Drives endowment growth through donor engagement and strategic partnerships.
- Serve as the primary spokesperson for the Foundation; promote its vision and goals to internal and external audiences.
- Collaborate with senior leadership to integrate philanthropy into strategic initiatives and organizational priorities.
- Responsible for developing and executing a comprehensive grants strategy that aligns funding opportunities with organizational priorities, drives sustainable growth, and fosters partnerships to advance our mission and deliver measurable impact.

Operational Oversight

- Establish and maintain Ministry-wide policies, processes, and tools for fundraising and donor stewardship.
- Ensure compliance with regulatory requirements and best practices in nonprofit management.
- Oversee centralized gift processing, donor acknowledgment, and investment policy adherence.
- Develop and manage operating budgets; monitor financial performance and resource allocation.
- Leverage technology and marketing strategies to advance philanthropic efforts.

Fundraising & Donor Engagement

- Lead the design and execution of comprehensive fundraising programs, including major gifts, annual giving, planned giving, corporate partnerships, and special campaigns.
- Cultivate and maintain strong relationships with donors, community leaders, board members, business partners, and philanthropic organizations.

- Organize and implement targeted strategies to increase donor contributions, expand donor networks, and retain long-term donor commitment.

Governance and Collaboration

- Partner with Executive leadership team and facility leaders to align goals and strategies.
- Provide regular performance updates on fundraising metrics, financial outcomes, philanthropic trends, and community relations.
- Support Board governance through planning, reporting, and communication on key initiatives.

People Leadership

- Lead and develop a high-performing team through coaching, accountability, and career development.
- Manage staffing and resources to achieve departmental and organizational objectives.
- Foster a culture of engagement, collaboration, and continuous improvement.

Key Performance Metrics:

- Resource management
- Operational efficiency
- Monies raised
- Number of Major Gifts
- Repeat donors
- Dollars spent/Dollars used
- Engagement of OSF Leadership
- Investment performance
- Staff competency development

Goals and Objectives

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

Optimize Major Gift Performance

The CDO will advance a high-performing major gifts program that strengthens OSF HealthCare through disciplined donor engagement, optimized portfolios, and strong collaboration with executive and clinical leaders. Using a metrics-driven, face-to-face strategy, the CDO will grow a diverse prospect pipeline through proactive identification and strategic movement. This leader will elevate fundraising excellence by coaching gift officers and fostering a result-oriented culture. Aligned with OSF priorities, the CDO will ensure donor strategies support system goals, accelerate philanthropic decisions, and drive portfolio optimization. The role also leads strategic events and partnerships and works with Regional Directors and the VP of Development to guide solicitation strategy and ensure consistent use of core systems to enhance visibility, tracking, and decision-making.

Expand and Advance the Planned Giving Program

The CDO will lead the strategic expansion of Planned Giving to strengthen long-term support for OSF HealthCare by growing the 1877 Legacy Society and building a strong pipeline of planned giving prospects. This includes enhancing donor education, increasing awareness of estate-giving opportunities, and equipping gift officers to fully integrate planned giving into their portfolios. Using data-driven insights and key engagement tools—such as the Legacy of Hope Ambassador Council and targeted outreach—the CDO will broaden audiences and deepen relationships with donors, advisors, and community partners. Working across the Foundation, the CDO will embed planned giving into regional and systemwide plans, maintain accountability for metrics and documentation, and guide ongoing program development to ensure consistent, sustainable growth of the Legacy Society.

Develop and Execute a Corporate Giving Strategic Plan

The CDO will lead a comprehensive Corporate Giving Strategic Plan to expand business philanthropy by deepening corporate engagement, establishing “Charity of Choice” partnerships, and broadening giving channels beyond sponsorships. Serving as OSF’s corporate ambassador, the CDO will cultivate C-suite relationships, strengthen stewardship, and build long-term corporate affinity through tailored strategies aligned with partner priorities. The role will coordinate data-informed outreach with internal teams, enhance recognition and regional consistency, and integrate corporate strategies into signature events to maximize fundraising and strengthen partnerships.

Grow and Optimize the Foundation Donor Pipeline

The CDO will lead the development of a comprehensive Corporate Giving Strategic Plan to expand business philanthropy by deepening corporate engagement, establishing “Charity of Choice” partnerships, and broadening giving channels beyond sponsorships to include direct gifts, matching programs, volunteerism, workplace giving, corporate grants, and third-party fundraising. By positioning OSF as a preferred charitable partner, the CDO will cultivate C-suite relationships, strengthen stewardship, and build long-term corporate affinity through tailored strategies aligned with each partner’s priorities while coordinating outreach with councils, volunteers, hospital leadership, business development, and Marketing/Communications. The CDO will also enhance recognition and year-round stewardship, ensure regional consistency, and integrate corporate strategies into signature events to maximize fundraising and strengthen partnerships.

National Expansion of Foundation Visibility and Destination Center Philanthropy

The CDO will elevate national visibility of OSF HealthCare’s Destination Centers and Institutes by cultivating high-profile partnerships, strengthening integrated philanthropic messaging, and deploying modern digital strategies to expand OSF’s donor reach. In collaboration with Marketing and Communications, the CDO will engage prominent organizations, businesses, and thought leaders to position OSF as a global destination for

transformative care, while advancing third-party fundraising, deepening community support for key priorities, and implementing an enterprise-level digital philanthropy strategy leveraging AI, analytics, and contemporary platforms. Building on national collaborations such as the OSF Breakthrough Treatment Center partnership with Origin, the CDO will highlight innovation across the Ministry, honor the Sisters' philanthropic legacy, showcase milestone gifts, and strengthen the Destination Center framework to expand national presence, deepen donor engagement, and accelerate support for OSF's most impactful programs.

Elevate Culture of Philanthropy through Enriched Donor Engagement and Stewardship Strategy

The CDO will strengthen OSF HealthCare's culture of philanthropy by enriching donor engagement and elevating stewardship through coordinated communications, personalized recognition, and meaningful donor experiences. In partnership with Marketing and Communications, the Foundation will showcase campaign milestones and transformational gifts to highlight impact and deepen relationships, while advancing priorities such as enhanced major gift communications, expanded principal gift endowment opportunities, elevated recognition offerings, a coordinated Ministry-wide stewardship program, and an annual communication plan supported by clear strategies and improved tracking. Together, these efforts will increase donor satisfaction, improve retention, and reinforce a culture rooted in gratitude, impact, and meaningful philanthropic engagement.

Pursue Excellence in Fund Administration

The CDO will ensure excellence in fund administration and uphold gift integrity by maintaining strong processes for recording donor information, stewarding Foundation funds, and ensuring timely, accurate receipting while safeguarding donor intent and full accountability in how gifts are used. This work requires close collaboration among fundraisers, Administrative Gift Services, Foundation Accounting, Finance, and hospital leaders to support efficient, transparent, and compliant workflows, while ongoing improvements ensure all unrestricted, restricted, and endowed gifts are properly received, recorded, stewarded, and supported by proactive reporting that strengthens understanding of fund availability and Mission-aligned utilization. The CDO will also enhance cross-department collaboration, reinforce GAAP compliance, strengthen internal controls, and address challenges such as managing 750+ funds, documentation gaps, delays in fund creation, and limited internal awareness—collectively reinforcing a culture of accuracy, transparency, and excellence in stewarding donor resources.

Establish a Coordinated, Goal-Oriented Grants Administration Program

The CDO will strengthen and expand OSF's Grants Administration program by coordinating goal-driven, strategically aligned grant-seeking efforts that increase and diversify revenue across public, private, and corporate funders. By embedding dedicated grants support within Destination Centers and establishing Scholarship Councils, the CDO will align faculty, operational leaders, and philanthropic strategy across key clinical and academic areas, enabling seamless collaboration and stronger volume, diversity, and alignment of grant activity. Key efforts—including launching a Ministry-wide Scholarship Council, improving reporting and analytics, embedding grants staff in clinical hubs, and building robust prospect pipelines—will position the Foundation to secure transformational external funding, deepen philanthropy–research integration, and accelerate the growth and visibility of Destination OSF.

Candidate Qualifications

Education/Certification

- Bachelor's degree (e.g., communications, hospital administration, business administration, or related field) required.
- Master's degree preferred.

Knowledge and Work Experience

- Minimum of **five years** of progressively responsible fundraising experience (preferably in a healthcare or academic medical center setting). Seven or more years senior leadership accountability for healthcare fundraising in a healthcare system preferred.
- Management and leadership experience in a consumer-focused healthcare environment.
- Experience with administrative management of professional and/or medical divisions.
- Knowledge of fund development, grant proposal preparation, basic accounting and statistics.
- Comprehensive understanding of advanced fundraising techniques and concepts with proven ability to develop sources of contributions as well as make persuasive presentations to potential donors.
- Demonstrated understanding of current Federal and State rules and regulations governing health care.
- Must ascribe to and represent Catholic Religious Ethics, Values, and Principles as they relate to the practice of Catholic healthcare.

Leadership Skills and Competencies

- A **transformational** leader who anticipates organizational needs, champions innovation, and guides teams through complex change with clarity, resilience, and strategic foresight.
- A **relationship-driven** leader with outstanding emotional intelligence, excelling in building coalitions and fostering strong interpersonal connections across diverse stakeholders.
- A **collaborative yet decisive** leader who consistently makes decisions grounded in ethical principles, organizational values, and long-term mission impact, even in the face of complexity or competing priorities.
- **Data-driven, process-minded, and operationally disciplined.** Prioritizes resource stewardship, operational efficiency, and continuous improvement to maximize impact and organizational effectiveness.
- A **humble** and **spiritually grounded** leader who honors the Franciscan heritage of OSF and creating an environment where empathy, reflection, and respect guide leadership practice. Models the organization's Mission, Vision, and Values in every action and decision, fostering a culture of integrity, compassion, and purpose-driven service.
- A **forward-thinking** and **innovative** leader who earns respect and can obtain support to accomplish the vision and goals of the organization. Inspires others with a compelling vision for the future and translating ideas into actionable pathways for growth.

- **Flexible and Adaptable.** Able to provide strong leadership during times of change; possesses the vision and the sensitivity to sustain a cultural transformation process consistent with the mission and values of OSF HealthCare.
- A **people-centered and inclusive** leader who invests in developing talent, empowers individuals to achieve their highest potential, and cultivates a collaborative, high-performing team environment.
- **Result-oriented**, persistent in inspiring others in achieving success, knows how to achieve challenging performance goals in a complex environment.
- An **excellent communicator**, including the ability to listen effectively, be open to the ideas of others and bring them to consensus. Can present data and translate complex issues into comprehensible ideas in a concise and easily understood manner.
- A **systems thinker** who can “connect the dots” quickly and implement initiatives across multiple units. Proven creative problem-solving skills with the willingness to take the initiative in leading and managing change; able to execute, not just theorize.

The Community

Greater Peoria, Illinois

Located along the beautiful Illinois River, the Greater Peoria Region is a vibrant, welcoming home to a diverse population of 1.5 million residents. Long recognized as a center of American industry and innovation, the area is rapidly expanding its influence in biotechnical research and development, positioning itself as one of the Midwest's emerging hubs for science, health care and technology.

As the home of OSF HealthCare's flagship medical center and its destinations for complex cancer, cardiovascular, neurosciences and pediatric care, the region offers exceptional quality of life, short commutes and a thriving environment for families, professionals, students and innovators alike. Centrally located within easy driving distance of Chicago, St. Louis and Indianapolis, Peoria combines major-city advantages with the convenience and comfort of a mid-sized community.



Education

Greater Peoria's educational ecosystem is one of its strongest assets – expansive, high-quality and deeply connected to health care, engineering, biotechnology and advanced manufacturing.

- Higher Education: The region is home to world-class private universities, such as [Bradley University](#), which is the No. 5 ranked regional university in the Midwest; top nursing and medical programs, such as Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing and University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria, which partners with OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center and OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois; and [Illinois Central College](#), the largest community college in Illinois outside Chicago.
- K–12 Excellence: Families enjoy award-winning school districts in Dunlap, Morton and Washington, along with strong parochial and private options.
- Advanced Academic Programs: Greater Peoria hosts the prestigious Richwoods International Baccalaureate Program, the only IB program in Illinois outside Chicago.
- Private & Faith-Based Schools: Options include Peoria Academy, Montessori Academy of Peoria, Peoria Christian School, Daarul Uloom Islamic School and Peoria Notre Dame – known for its rigorous AP Capstone curriculum.
- A Highly Skilled Workforce: The region includes more than 250 PhD researchers contributing to breakthroughs across engineering, agriculture, medicine and technology.

Events, Festivals & Cultural Experiences

The Greater Peoria Region boasts a rich calendar of community-defining events – celebrations of heritage, art, food and Midwest charm.

- Home to America's oldest Santa Claus Parade (since 1877).
- Seasonal highlights include:
 - East Peoria Festival of Lights – nationally recognized.

- Morton Pumpkin Festival – a beloved community classic.
- Christmas in the Village – a European-style holiday market with one of the largest Christmas trees in the nation.
- Cultural showcases such as Passage to India.
- The [Peoria Art Guild](#) Fine Art Fair is the region’s premier arts event – ranked No. 2 in the Top 5 Midwestern Art Fairs, No. 20 in the “Top 200” nationally and among the nation’s Top 50 overall.
- Greater Peoria also features more than 70 outdoor murals and sculptures by local and nationally recognized artists, including works by Preston Jackson, ranked among the top Illinois artists of all time.

Sports & Recreation

Sports are embedded in the DNA of Greater Peoria, offering everything from Division I athletics to professional and youth sports.

- Home to Bradley University’s NCAA Division I athletics.
- Professional teams include the Peoria Chiefs (MiLB) and Peoria Rivermen (SPHL).
- Peoria City Soccer competes in one of the nation’s top pre-professional leagues.
- [Louisville Slugger Sports Complex](#) – a premier Midwest destination – features 12 turf fields and a 126,000-square-foot dome; named 2022 Complex of the Year.
- EastSide Centre hosts state championships in softball, track and baseball. It boasts 10 natural grass baseball/softball diamonds, four full-length soccer/lacrosse fields, three indoor basketball courts, a 20,000-square-foot soft gymnasium, a fully equipped fitness center and more.
- Home to the Peoria TT Grand National Motorcycle Championships.
- Outdoor lovers enjoy 26+ golf courses and a golf learning center, extensive hiking and biking trails and the [Peoria Park District](#), with its nearly 9,000 acres of green space, is the largest and oldest in Illinois and a four-time [National Gold Medal Award winner](#).

Museums & Entertainment

Peoria has an entertainment history dating back to Vaudeville and is the hometown of icons like the late comedian Richard Pryor and singer-songwriter Dan Folgerberg. Peoria offers a rich cultural landscape anchored by historic institutions and nationally recognized venues.

- The [Peoria Riverfront Museum](#), a Smithsonian affiliate, is the only multidisciplinary museum of its kind in the U.S., featuring the largest giant-screen theater in Illinois. It’s also home to the [Dome Planetarium](#) where you can experience some of the most amazing places in the universe.
- The Peoria Symphony Orchestra, the nation’s 14th-oldest, brings world-renowned guest artists to the region.
- Peoria Players Theatre is Illinois’ oldest continuously running community theatre and the fourth-oldest in the nation.
- Peoria Civic Center offers a large concert venue and theater that draws national touring shows, musicians and other performers.

Food & Drink

Greater Peoria has a thriving and diverse restaurant scene – from local favorites to nationally recognized dining experiences. The eclectic selection span global cuisines, modern fine dining, artisanal bakeries, craft breweries and wineries and beloved Midwest comfort food.

- Restaurants such as Saffron Social hold the [Distinguished Restaurants of North America](#) designation.
- Ardor Breads & Provisions, an Illinois Made honoree, earned national recognition as one of [USA TODAY’s Restaurants of the Year](#).
- Treat your taste buds at Blue Duck Barbecue Tavern on the Riverfront, fried chicken at Gil’s Supper Club in nearby Hanna City and giant tenderloin sandwiches served at local joints throughout the area.

Lifestyle & Quality of Life

Life in Greater Peoria means more time for what matters.

- [Average commutes](#) are just 17.5 minutes, significantly improving work-life balance.
- The region is consistently ranked among the Top 100 Best Places to Live and one of the Best Places to Retire in the U.S., thanks to its affordability, arts, recreation and connected community.
- Peoria has been listed as one of the Top 100 Best Places to Live for two consecutive years (2024 & 2025).

For additional insights, visit [Choose Greater Peoria](#), [Hello Peoria](#) and [Livability Magazine's Greater Peoria portal](#).

Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations and inquiries are invited. Review of applications has begun and will continue until the position is filled.

Please direct all applications, nominations and inquiries to the WittKieffer consultants assisting OSF HealthCare with this recruitment, preferably via e-mail, at: Jcummings@Wittkieffer.com.

Mike Raddatz Senior Partner 630-575-6106	Jessica Cummings Associate 630-575-6776
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OSF HealthCare values diversity and is committed to equal opportunity for all persons regardless of age, color, disability, ethnicity, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status or any other status protected by law.

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