Established as the Indiana Health Institute in 1985 and renamed the Eskenazi Health Foundation in 2011, the Foundation’s board of directors and staff partner with Eskenazi Health to create a vital, healthy Indianapolis community.

Vision

To advance the healthcare of our community through leadership and innovation at Eskenazi Health.

Mission

Eskenazi Health Foundation inspires, energizes and promotes a vital, healthy Indianapolis community by providing strategic guidance and philanthropic resources to Eskenazi Health.

Values

With an emphasis on the most vulnerable populations of Marion County, the Eskenazi Health Foundation shares the values of Eskenazi Health:

- Professionalism
- Respect
- Innovation
- Development
- Excellence
In 2018, Eskenazi Health Foundation commissioned an extensive process of investigating how it could make the most impact on creating a healthier Indianapolis community. The Foundation engaged Advertising for Humanity to conduct a situational analysis of various health factors in the Indianapolis community. This process included interviews with 29 donors and community leaders, as well as conversations with staff and board leaders. The work of Advertising for Humanity placed the focus of the Foundation squarely on the social determinants of health. Addressing social determinants of health is a core focus of Eskenazi Health and provides an avenue for the Foundation to raise funds not only to support initiatives of the health system but also to help bring out systemic change.

In early 2019, the Foundation’s board of directors’ retreat dove more deeply into the social determinants of health and developed a shared understanding of the nonmedical factors that influence health. Johnson, Grossnickle and Associates facilitated this board retreat to build off the work of Advertising for Humanity and begin to create a clear focus for the Foundation to achieve its vision and mission. Through educational materials and sessions provided by the health system leadership, the board determined that immediate funding was needed to conduct further research into non-medical factors that influence patient health.

Later in 2019, the Foundation’s board approved a $500,000 grant for Eskenazi Health to accelerate the integration of social determinants of health into clinical care. Already a local and national leader in addressing social determinants, this funding allowed Eskenazi Health to further identify the nonmedical factors influencing patients' health and create an infrastructure, which will allow for the expansion of existing programs and creation of new ones at each of the Eskenazi Health primary care centers and the Sandra Eskenazi Mental Health Center.

In early 2020, the Foundation board once again came together in a facilitated retreat to receive an update on the results of the research to date and to establish the goals and objectives that would become the basis for this strategic plan.

Through the implementation of this five-year strategic plan, the Foundation will leverage its leadership and philanthropy to integrate the medical, mental, and social care AND alleviate the social determinants of health to create a vital, healthy Indianapolis community.
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal #1: Build healthier communities through strategic philanthropic support of the Eskenazi Health Centers.

- Support the creation of a new Eastside Eskenazi Health Center that will serve as model for the integration of medical, mental, and social care.
- Enhance efforts to alleviate social determinants of health through the tailored work of each health center.
- Facilitate partnerships to address social determinants of health.
- Promote innovative medical, mental, and social care solutions with a focus on Food as Medicine.

Goal #2: Fund core Eskenazi Health patient care initiatives and provide flexible funding for innovation.

- Create an innovation fund to support patient care and research.
- Continue to fund ongoing cutting-edge health system programs.
- Grow the Foundation endowment to provide sustainable funding.

Goal #3: Increase community awareness and donor stewardship.

- Identify communications strategies within key markets to strengthen and protect the Foundation’s positive brand image.
- Assist Eskenazi Health in communicating the impact of social determinants of health on the well-being of our community.
- Explore the Foundation’s role in public policy.
- Deepen donor relationships through stewardship.

Goal #4: Grow the strategic impact of the Foundation Board of Directors.

- Grow and strengthen the board composition.
- Build a culture of philanthropy including an enhanced role for the Foundation directors in donor engagement and advocacy.
- Engage directors, prospects, and donors through experiential learning.
PLANNING COMMITTEE

John Thompson, Chair (2018-19)
John Ackerman, Chair (2020-)
Charlene Barnette
Greg Fehribach
David Eskenazi
Alessandro Franchi
Mark Gargula
Tom Grande
Lisa Harris, M.D.
Cherri Hobgood, M.D.
Bill McCarthy
Tom Pence
Josh Smiley
Michael Smith