



Gratitude Report

2024



SSM Health Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation
SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital Foundation





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Exceptional health care powered by generosity

Building a healthier community in Southern Illinois is possible because of YOU. The wonderful diversity of communities represented by donors across Southern Illinois is truly valued. No matter where you call home, SSM Health Good Samaritan Hospital and SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital work together within the SSM Health system with the support of our two dedicated Foundations. **Your generosity helps strengthen our ability to serve the Southern Illinois region with quality, compassionate health care.**



Growing our future: Investing in local health care talent

Ensuring that SSM Health Good Samaritan Hospital recruits and retains local health care providers is essential for a rural community like Mt. Vernon, Illinois. Often young professionals seek opportunities outside of small towns after graduation, leading them to relocate. SSM Health is focused on investing in continuing education for current employees – physicians, nurses, therapists, and clinicians — as well as potential new hires such as graduating high school seniors interested in pursuing a career in health care. Making sure that patients receive the highest quality care and investing in employee professional development will have an immeasurable impact on patient lives.





Because of the generosity of donors,

\$100,000

was raised to establish The Norma Fairchild Education Endowment, named after a longtime Foundation board member and pillar of the community. Approximately

\$5,000

will be disbursed annually to support hospital employees' learning and growth opportunities.



Thanks to a dedicated group of **over 100 volunteers who contributed more than 14,302 service hours** last year, the Auxiliary established a

\$25,000

permanent endowment fund to support high school seniors pursuing careers in health care. The SSM Health Good Samaritan Hospital Auxiliary Scholarships Program offers **ten \$1,500 scholarships and one \$1,500 scholarship** specifically for the children and grandchildren of SSM Health employees.



Bridging the gap

Transportation is necessary for accessing health care services in rural communities. Barriers to transportation can result in missed health care appointments, delays in receiving care interventions, and missed or delayed use of needed medications. Not having a reliable source of transportation can impact how rural community members make decisions about health care. Fortunately, thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors last year, we are able to fund transit services that ensure patients can easily travel to and from SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital and SSM Health Good Samaritan Hospital.



In 2024:

288 patients

received transportation assistance
to and/or from SSM Health
Good Samaritan Hospital – Mt. Vernon.

334 patients

received transportation assistance
to and/or from SSM Health
St. Mary's Hospital – Centralia.



How donor support transforms emergency care

A lot has happened since SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital opened its newly renovated emergency department five years ago, thanks to the generosity of donors. Many upgrades and additions were made, including two separate entrances for ambulance personnel and walk-in patients, dedicated rooms for behavioral health and sexual assault patients, and even a decontamination room for chemical spills. Thanks to donors, the impact of your generosity is felt every day.

In November 2024, 14 correctional officers from the Centralia Correctional Center in Illinois were exposed to an unknown substance that caused symptoms such as dizziness, cardiac changes, numbness, and decline in cognitive function. They were rushed to SSM Health St. Mary's Emergency Department.

When many individuals are exposed to a hazardous substance that poses serious safety risks, it is crucial to protect the public from further exposure or contamination. **Fortunately, thanks to donor support, the officers were able to use the decontamination showers safely. With the improved decontamination facilities, SSM Health was able to provide prompt and efficient medical care in a controlled environment, minimizing the risk of spreading contamination to other patients in the emergency department.**



A photograph of a hospital's emergency entrance. A large red cross sign is mounted on the wall to the left of the entrance. To the right, the word "Emergency" is written in large, red, three-dimensional letters. The building has a modern design with a glass and metal roof structure. The entrance area is covered by a large overhang.

"Disaster preparedness for hospitals is critical. Historically, most of our disaster supplies were stored outside of the hospital and the actual decontamination space served a dual purpose, which could potentially risk contamination exposure to others. With the renovation of the ED, the new standalone decontamination room includes ample supplies allowing our teams to effectively and efficiently provide exceptional patient care when time matters."

—Susie Robbins, retired SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital Emergency Department Director and current Board Director, SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital Foundation Board



Empowering nursing excellence

With the generous support of our donors, SSM Health Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation provided an upgraded manikin and four portable skills trainers for their simulation lab at Good Samaritan Hospital. These vital tools better equip nurses at Good Samaritan Hospital and facilitate training for nurses visiting from SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital to complete their orientation, allowing them to engage in realistic scenarios that mirror the challenges faced in their daily practice. Additionally, the Nurse Residency Specialist can leverage these resources to improve the competency of new graduate nursing students. As the number of new graduates continues to grow, this enhanced training capacity is crucial for developing a skilled nursing workforce ready to meet the health care needs of our community.







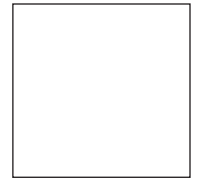
A family tradition: The art of giving back

Bill and Barbara Beck, Doug and Debby Kroeschen, and Michael and Tami (Beck) Kroeschen have dedicated their time, talent, and resources to ensuring that Southern Illinois has access to exceptional health care. Their commitment has transformed lives and inspired others to contribute. The legacy of generosity established by these families has empowered the third generation of Beck and Kroeschen grandchildren to continue this important work.

At SSM Health Good Samaritan Hospital, a beautiful portrait created by the Kroeschen children — Emmalee, Brayden, Alyssa, and Annabelle — hangs near the Procedure Center. These young artists collaborated selflessly with the local art museum, dedicating countless hours to creating a piece that honors their family's legacy while also serving a higher purpose: to brighten someone's day and inspire hope. **The finished portrait was auctioned, and the proceeds were donated to help meet the current needs and priorities of SSM Health Good Samaritan Hospital.**

Photo left: Floral imagery created by the Kroeschen children.

Photo above: Front row, from left: Alyssa and Annabelle Kroeschen, back row, from left: Brayden and Tami Kroeschen, Bill and Barbara Beck, Emmalee and Michael Kroeschen



SSMHealth.

Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation

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