



2024 Gratitude Report



SSMHealth
St. Mary's Hospital Foundation

PATIENT STORIES:

A lifeline of support

When unexpected events occur—whether large-scale disasters or personal crises—employees at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital - Jefferson City can access vital financial assistance to help them navigate these challenging times.

Thanks to the generous support of donors to the Employee Relief Fund, more than \$7,000 has been provided to coworkers in need, offering them the support necessary to overcome financial hardship.

Cris Campbell, Director of Critical Care at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital, shared, *"Many years ago, I was in nursing school, pursuing my dream of becoming a nurse. During that time, my wife suffered a severe fall at home that required surgery. She was hospitalized at*

SSM Health St. Mary's for three days, and the medical bills quickly piled up. Faced with these unexpected expenses, my wife and I found ourselves in a difficult position. We seriously considered the possibility of me dropping out of nursing school and returning to my previous job at Sprint to manage the financial burden. It was heartbreaking to contemplate giving up on my dream when I was so close to achieving it."

Because of the Employee Relief Fund, Cris and his wife received the financial help they urgently needed. Cris expressed, ***"This support was a lifeline that enabled me to remain in nursing school and focus on my studies. As a result, I completed my nursing program and went on to become the Director of Critical Care at St. Mary's Hospital."***





Generosity of care

When Jill received the devastating news of her lung cancer diagnosis, she learned she would need 30 radiation treatments. Balancing this challenge was especially difficult since, for the past eight years, she had been a full-time caregiver for her daughter with a disability.

Jill's biggest worry was how she could afford the daily drive to SSM Health Cancer Center in Jefferson City, which is 40 minutes away. *"I just didn't know how I would be able to afford to come to my radiation treatments every day,"* she expressed.

After voicing her concerns to her radiation oncology team, Jill received crucial support in the form of gas vouchers funded by the **Cancer Patient Assistance Fund**.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, Jill was able to attend all of her radiation treatments, allowing her to focus on her health and family without the burden of financial stress.

PROGRAM & MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SUPPORT:

LINAC repair

Over half of cancer patients in the United States undergo radiation therapy and are greatly reliant on a machine called a linear accelerator (LINAC). This essential machine treats both cancerous and benign tumors with remarkable precision, minimizing harm to healthy tissue. To maintain its effectiveness, regular preventive maintenance is crucial. With your support, SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital Foundation funded the upkeep of the LINAC machine, including a replacement door which ensures continued reliability for our patients.

In addition, donor support also allowed the Foundation to purchase new vital sign machines for radiation oncology and two new replacement bikes for cardiopulmonary rehab.



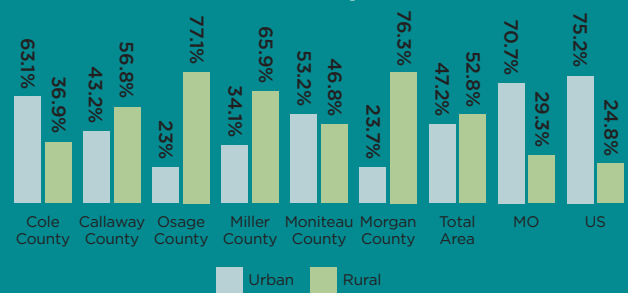
HealthTran program

Providing access to care is important at SSM Health and it plays an essential role in meeting the needs of our community residents. One significant challenge to accessing care is the lack of reliable transportation.



Thanks to the support from donors, SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital Foundation in Jefferson City, along with other local health care providers, established HealthTran—a free transportation service for rural Missourians. Since the start of this program in 2024, more than 100 patients have received complimentary transportation to their medical appointments.

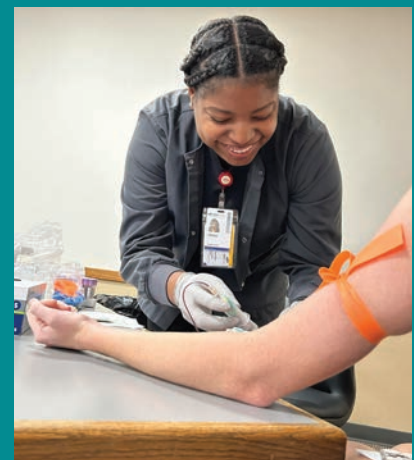
Urban and Rural Population (2020)



Medication assistance

In 2024, the Sisters Fund provided more than \$12,000 in essential prescription medications to support 259 patients in need of assistance. A nonprofit hospital founded by Catholic sisters, **SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital relies on donations to meet the health care needs of the community.** The hospital is committed to delivering exceptional, compassionate, and patient-centered care to all, especially the most vulnerable members of the community.

Your generosity enables the hospital to sustain its sacred Mission to meet the health care needs of the local community.



STAFF EDUCATION:

Triage Education Conference

Triage nurses play a crucial role in the health care setting. They must multitask and make critical decisions under pressure, especially in the emergency room. At SSM Health St. Mary's, triage responsibilities have typically fallen to the more seasoned ER nurses with 10-15 years of experience, who have gradually acquired the necessary skills and training.

However, Beth Edison, the Emergency Department Manager at SSM Health St. Mary's, recognized the importance of all ER nurses learning about triage and patient care prioritization. Beth had specific triage training from her prior experience, and she was determined to ensure her entire team was equipped to handle the demands of triage. As a result, in the spring of 2024, Beth organized the first Triage Education Conference for the ER nursing staff at St. Mary's Hospital.

The ER at SSM Health St. Mary's sees approximately 80 patients per day, ranging from life-threatening emergencies to minimal concerns. Hospitals use an Acuity System or Emergency Severity Index (ESI) on a scale of 1 to 5 to help prioritize the level of care needed. Level 1 indicates the need for lifesaving measures, such as cardiac arrest or stroke, while Level 5 is the lowest priority, covering issues like work notes or suspected ear infections without symptoms.

Melissa Dorris, an ER nurse at SSM Health St. Mary's, attended the conference and gained a crucial understanding: even after a patient is triaged and their acuity level is determined, their situation can change rapidly. Nurses must constantly be aware of the patients in the waiting room and be prepared to address

even the smallest concerns, as they may indicate a more serious issue. "This course helped to teach us to constantly be aware of our patients in the waiting room, reassessing them and their vitals every two hours and how this is something we are really working on implementing," said Melissa.



Melissa is passionate about ensuring this valuable conference continues. With many seasoned nurses having recently retired, it's crucial to provide these types of educational opportunities for younger nurses and new graduates. Melissa also sees great value in extending the conference to nurses from other departments, such as obstetrics (OB) nurses who work in triage, to share knowledge and insights across specialties.

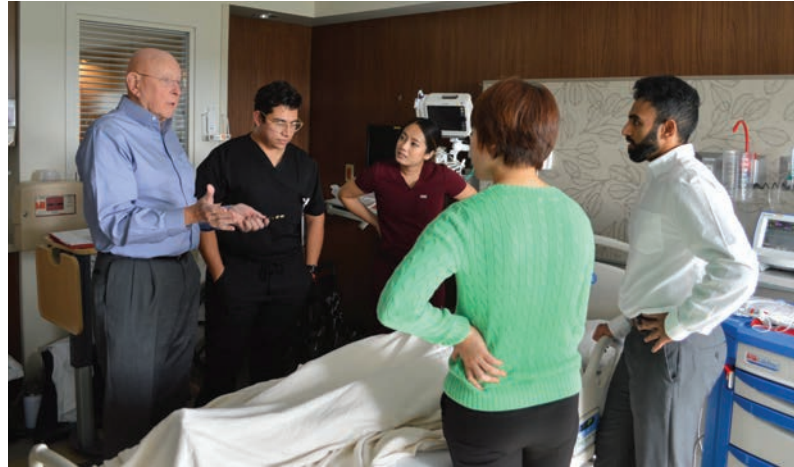
Thanks to the generosity of donors, Melissa and many other nurses were able to attend what proved to be a truly life-changing educational event.

Scholarship support

In 2024, St. Mary's Hospital proudly introduced two new scholarship opportunities with the support of our generous donors: **The Rhonda Shimmens Nursing Scholarship** and **the Health Professions Scholarship**. These scholarships are designed to help current nursing and allied health students, hospital employees seeking further education or training, and nursing students at Lincoln University.

The scholarships significantly alleviate financial burdens by covering tuition, educational materials, uniforms, and other costs associated with supporting our team members' career goals.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to award more than \$23,000 in scholarships last year.



"I would like to sincerely thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the Spring Employee Scholarship Award. It meant a lot to me, and I am overwhelmed with gratitude and appreciation. I am in my first semester of my master's degree program at Western Governors University. This requires a lot of time, commitment, and money, but your generous donation will help ease the way of obtaining my education toward achieving my master's in nursing degree."

Ashley Kempker, BSN, RN-BC

"By being a recipient of this scholarship, the financial burden of my education has been lifted, and I am able to focus more on my education to become the best nurse I can be. I have been given the opportunity to continue working towards my career goals by building relationships with future coworkers and seizing every opportunity to learn or practice skills. I am so grateful for this organization and SSM Health for believing in my potential and investing in my future."

Caitlyn Miller

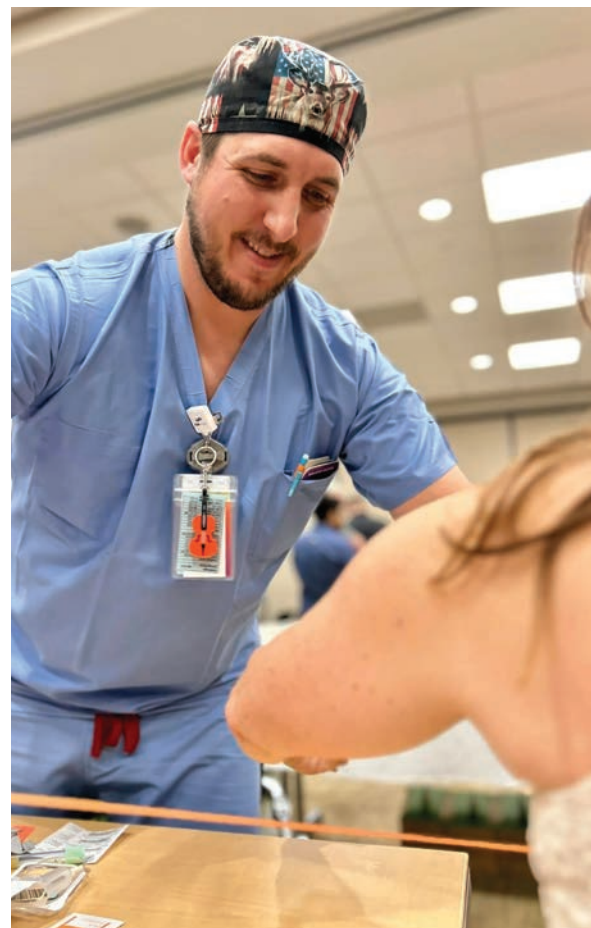




Why I give

"I choose to give back to SSM Health St. Mary's because of three things: the people, the care, and the Mission. Since I have been associated with St. Mary's Hospital, I am always impressed by the people who work here. The doctors, nurses, and administrative staff all are truly dedicated to making the patient experience at St. Mary's the best possible. St. Mary's staff are constantly being trained to give the best possible care to patients. We have been highly ranked in patient care and service. We are a big hospital with a small-town feeling. Our staff really cares and lives out the Mission everyday: Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God."

**Terry Rackers, 2025 SSM Health St. Mary's
Hospital Foundation Board President**



2505 Mission Drive
Health Plaza Suite 350
Jefferson City, MO 65109

573-681-3742
givetossmhealth.org/stmarysjc

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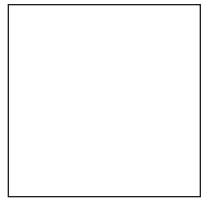
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HEALTH PLAZA RENOVATION PROJECT:

Looking to the future

SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital - Jefferson City is thrilled to announce our exciting plans for the Health Plaza renovation! This significant enhancement will improve healthcare access for our vibrant Mid-Missouri community. As community needs continue to expand, we are committed to growing alongside it with additional primary care physicians and expert surgeons. Our goal is to enhance accessibility to care by offering specialized treatment conveniently located close to home.

Donor support will be essential in enhancing our surgical offerings, enabling patients to receive advanced care closer to home and positively impacting the health of our community.

