

Our History and Mission

The Mission of SSM Health

Foundation – St. Louis is rooted in a rich legacy of courage. For more than 150 years, SSM Health has been helping those in need gain access to the highest quality of care — using the Franciscan Sisters of Mary as a guiding light to caring for the most vulnerable.

Today, the SSM Health Mission continues to guide us: ***Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God.*** With shared courage for a common good, our health care providers, staff, donors, and volunteers are committed to providing highly advanced, compassionate care to patients and their families — in and outside of the walls of SSM Health.

The support we receive comes to life in many ways, from ensuring that SSM Health caregivers have access to and training in cutting-edge, lifesaving technologies to funding state-of-the-art facilities, patient-centered impact programs, and resources throughout the St. Louis region.

givetossmhealth.org/stl

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A continuum of care uplifts and empowers

Home is a place of comfort and safety. It's where we start and end our days; where we have good moments and tough ones; where we heal and recharge ourselves. It is a safe haven for many individuals healing after a hospital stay, managing pain following an injury, or experiencing terminal illness.

Nationwide, 15 million people receive home care services every year, and this need for exceptional, skilled care at home will only continue to grow. SSM Health at Home's hospice and home health programs and services offer support and stability to empower those — and their families — receiving care at home.

70%
of home care
patients are

65+
years



77% of adults
50+
are committed to
“aging in place”




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The why: Home-based support systems for our community

When John first started receiving hospice care, he was in a lot of pain. He wasn't sleeping well, having trouble with his CPAP, and he spent most of his time in a recliner. John felt disconnected from his loved ones, and he was grouchy with the health care providers trying to help him.

After 10 months of hospice care, Margo Mason, LMT, came to John for Comfort Touch® Massage Therapy — but he didn't want to be touched because of sensory issues. Margo spent two hours on the first visit getting to know John. After several visits, Margo was able to integrate light massage therapy on his head, neck, and shoulders, as well as stretching. The massage therapy opened up a new world for John, one where he allowed other care providers to make his hospice experience better and one where he reconnected with his wife and loved ones by reminiscing on his life.

John's story is a common one. Our professional support, whether through Comfort Touch® Massage Therapy or other home health services, provides an uninterrupted continuum of expert care right at home.



“Some people think that once a person starts on hospice care, that’s it for them. I am grateful this has not been the experience for us because the people we love don’t stop being who we love just because of their illness or diagnoses.”

— family member of SSM Health at Home patient

The need: High-quality, affordable hospice and home health care

Healing in place is comfortable, convenient, and empowering. After a hospital stay or when facing a long-term illness, home health services better aid in recovery and healing by providing personalized treatment and recovery support to individuals in a familiar, restful setting. These programs can often come piecemeal with a high financial cost.

We understand the varying needs associated with caring for people recovering at home or with a limited life expectancy. Our holistic and family-centered caregivers emphasize preserving dignity and improving quality of life — while also offering an emotional and financial safety net through our breadth of programs and services.

The how: Initiatives that stabilize, support, and strengthen

Together, we can improve and deepen the experiences of those who receive care at home — while also providing financial assistance and support when it’s most needed. Your generous gift may support a diverse offering of SSM Health at Home programs and initiatives, including:



Peaceful Harmony Music Therapy

Music therapy interventions involve the clinical and evidence-based use of music to promote wellness, manage stress, alleviate pain, enhance memory, improve communication, and provide unique opportunities for interaction.



Comfort Touch® Massage Therapy

This special type of massage promotes deep relaxation and provides potential relief from pain and anxiety for hospice patients who may feel discomfort from conventional massage therapy.

Statistics from: AARP, U.S. Census Bureau



Generous support needed

To provide the care that starts at home, we need continued generous support from benefactors, like you. Through our combined efforts, we can bridge both financial and care gaps to provide the physical, emotional, and spiritual support our hospice and home health patients — and their families — need during this time.

Give today at
givetossmhealth.org/stlgive.

