

Our History and Mission

The Mission of the SSM Health Foundation — St. Louis is rooted in a rich legacy of courage. For over 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 greater St. Louis region.

givetossmhealth.org

in  

12312 Olive Blvd., Suite 100, St. Louis, MO 63141
314-523-8044 | FoundationSTL@ssmhealth.com

Hope meets healing

Health care is so much more than a visit to your doctor to address a physical health condition. While medical appointments are critical to improving and maintaining your health, it's important to take a step back and look at the social determinants of health (SDoH) and how — or if — they are being met.

These physical, social, and environmental factors — access to stable housing and transportation, education opportunities, nutritious food, and more — can have a major impact on a person's overall well-being. The longer these SDoH are unmet, or met at an insufficient level, can have a lasting impact on both the individual and their community's health and quality of life.

In St. Louis, the Connection for Health and Healing Program, based at SSM Health DePaul Hospital — St. Louis, works closely with residents to uncover their unique health care needs, break down barriers to care, and connect community members with support that enhances their lives across multiple dimensions.




SSMHealth[®]
Foundation
ST. LOUIS

The why: Barriers to health care resources cause inequity



70,000 people live in an area where barriers to health care resources are causing health inequity.

Our local communities are our most valuable resources. There is a domino effect that occurs when one of us receives support. When we deliver better access to care, the likelihood of outcomes such as positive health and wellness, enhanced quality of life, and heightened equity and inclusion increase for not just the individual but for all.

However, it takes a strong support system to achieve health care access and resources across communities. Initiated by a landmark grant from the **Bridgeton Landfill Community Project, and led by SSM Health Foundation — St. Louis in collaboration with iFM Community Medicine, the Connection for Health and Healing Program** aims to help families and neighbors in our region's underserved areas.

The need: Reduce readmittance rates and improve overall well-being

Every day, patients are discharged and sent home from the hospital. It's what happens after — the follow-up appointments, phone calls and internet searches, housing and transportation, and more — that unmet SDoH can impact.

The Connection for Health and Healing Program's trusted community health workers help people like Kyle, whose chronic health conditions compromise her ability to walk safely from her car to her apartment. Kyle needed a handicap parking tag to reduce the distance she had to walk across her building's pothole-filled parking lot. To receive this tag, she needed to research whom to call or email, download an app, and pay \$10. Kyle does not have internet access at home and was unable to travel to the library to find the information she needed during library hours due to her work schedule.

With support from the Program's providers, Kyle was able to secure a parking pass to help ease the distance she walks from her car, therefore lowering her chances of falling, which in turn, decreases her likelihood of having to return to the emergency room.

**Statistics from: City of St. Louis Equity Indicators Baseline; Missouri Hospital Association March 2021*

Give today at
givetossmhealth.org.



Generous support needed

Help us bring hope to our underserved communities.
Together, we can increase health care outreach and access for all.

Overall health equity score in St. Louis



The how: Support community outreach programs and services

Through support from benefactors, like you, we can deepen our efforts to improve the health and well-being of our most vulnerable neighbors. Your gift may support community outreach programs and services, including:

Establishing roving clinics. Our health care providers actively consult the community in underserved zip codes to provide residents with access to preventative care while also educating them about available resources. So far, roving clinics have been established in Pattonville School District, Room at the Inn, and Missouri Baptist Children's Home with the hopes of expanding our reach even further in the coming years.

Assisting with behavioral health resources. The St. Louis area has seen an increase in emergency room visits for mental health issues. The Program helps connect those in need to services at SSM Health's Behavioral Health Urgent Care and local partners.

Aiding completion of applications. Filling out the Medicaid, private insurance, and other benefit applications can be confusing. Community health workers help guide neighbors through the process.

Securing essentials for patients. Through our dedicated staff, we can identify seemingly simple needs that our patients may not be able to obtain, such as reading glasses to read discharge notes and warm clothes to stay safe during cold winters.