

A Community of Love

SSM HEALTH ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL - ST. LOUIS

The Situation:

In remembrance of the St. Mary's of the Angels Convent and the Founding Sisters' presence on campus, SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – St. Louis is building a historical walking path to **bring peace** to those who need it most, while providing much needed green space to the area surrounding the hospital. In addition to healing physically through cutting-edge medicine and innovative research, we strive to help patients **heal mentally and spiritually**, too. This unique, historic walking path will be a place where the local community, health care providers, and patients can relax after a stressful day, take in fresh air after a round of treatments, and **say a quiet prayer**.



“Nature has a deep restorative power.”

– Pope John Paul II

GENEROUS SUPPORT NEEDED

to enhance the SSM Health
St. Mary's Hospital - St. Louis
Historic Walking Path



SSMHealth®

Foundation

ST. LOUIS

Our History and Mission

SSM Health Foundation — St. Louis' Mission is rooted in a rich legacy of courage. Just as the Sisters of St. Mary's selflessly gave time and energy to collect donations to care for the needy, we seek support to provide care and resources to those who need it most in our community. Today, the SSM Health Mission continues to guide us at the Foundation: through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God. With a shared courage for a common good, our health care providers, staff, benefactors, and volunteers are committed to providing highly advanced, compassionate care to patients and their families.

The support we receive comes to life in many different ways, from ensuring that SSM Health caregivers have access to and training in cutting-edge, life-saving technologies, to funding state-of-the-art facilities, programs, and resources throughout the St. Louis, St. Charles, and Metro East regions.



The Need:

For over 80 years, a Convent rested comfortably on the SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – St. Louis campus. Even long after it was no longer functioning, the memories of the Convent and the Sisters' presence on campus remained a hallmark of the community's history and the story of SSM Health. When the decision was made to remove the remaining parts of the Convent, SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital saw an opportunity to both preserve its history and create a serene space for patients, caregivers, and their families to find respite during long hours spent at the hospital. Thus, a walking path for staff, patients, and visitors, along with enhancements of the existing Grotto, was incorporated into the site plan. More than a walking path, though, this trail will contain artifacts from the Convent and informational plaques so that community members can learn more about and better understand the impact the courageous Sisters of St. Mary's had on the region. To bring the vision of this beautiful historic walking path to life, there is a need to provide additional funding to support landscaping, a rain garden, and other features to create a serene, comforting, and enlightening space for patients, providers, and the community to share in hope, healing, and history. It is a work of remembrance and respite — a relaxing space where the patients and healers of today can connect with the SSM Health origin story.

The Goal:

Your support will help fund the preservation and placement of architectural artifacts, historical interpretation from the Archdiocese, a replication of the stained glass in the hospital's chapel, and historical, educational plaques placed along the path. Support will also help to fund landscaping, a rain garden, and other features to create a calm and comfortable space. Through these natural and historical elements, hospital patients, staff, and visitors will learn about the Founding Sisters, see sculptures of the Virgin Mary and St. Bernadette, and find peace and calm in the path's surrounding greenery. Path enhancements have and will occur in three key stages, beginning with the renovation and enhancement of the Grotto. The path will be walkable beginning December 2020, with a goal to complete enhancements by the end of 2023.



THE MISSING PIECE:

YOU

Funding Historic Walking Path

Available for patients, visitors, and staff, the walking path is a true representation of the community support and long history of shared courage and compassion that resounds daily in the hallowed halls of SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – St. Louis and the sister hospitals supported by SSM Health Foundation – St. Louis. Your continued support will provide additional amenities and the continued growth and promotion of this serene, educational space. Your generosity will help to create a place within the community where people can find peace and inspiration and celebrate God's gift of nature simultaneously.



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