

SSM HEALTH  
DEPAUL  
HOSPITAL

# Food Pantry

GENEROUS  
SUPPORT  
**NEEDED**

to help launch the SSM Health  
DePaul Hospital Food Pantry  
to aid the food insecure.

## The Situation:

A heart condition forces a single mother of three young children to take unpaid time off from work to rest and recover. Unfortunately, she has yet to receive financial assistance. With only \$100 in her bank account to last the next few weeks, she must make the difficult decision of whether to buy groceries for her family or vital medication for her treatment.

Situations like this happen all the time in our SSM Health DePaul Hospital - St. Louis community. **Food insecurity is one of the most difficult situations a parent or guardian can experience; not knowing where your family's next meal will come from is extremely distressing.** Low-income individuals are often forced to decide between buying food or filling prescriptions they need to live.



**1** in **6** individuals  
lives in **poverty** and  
struggles with **hunger** in the  
greater St. Louis region.



**SSMHealth**<sup>®</sup>  
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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, our Mission continues to guide us: 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, donors, 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 Why:

The ability to access nutritious food is one of the many economic and social conditions that affects an individual's overall health and wellbeing. There is a **direct connection between food insecurity and chronic disease—such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and obesity—and other health conditions.**

Many friends and neighbors in our community face food insecurity at some point. According to Operation Food Search, a St. Louis-based non-profit organization dedicated to ending hunger in our area, **1 in every 6 individuals lives in poverty and struggles with hunger in the greater St. Louis region.**

## The Need:

### Developing a Strategy to Address Food Insecurity

SSM Health is built on the principle of providing care and support to the most vulnerable and marginalized in our community. Our goal is to create a community health strategy to identify and address food insecurity, including **developing an on-site Food Pantry at SSM Health DePaul Hospital to serve the immediate needs of our patients, coworkers, and community.** We will also connect recipients to community partners for long-term access to food.

## The How:

### Partnering with Operation Food Search

SSM Health DePaul Hospital developed a strong relationship with Operation Food Search while launching a pilot program between the organization and the Obstetrics (OB) Care Center in 2018 that identifies pregnant women experiencing food insecurity and provides them with “prescriptions” for nutritious food shares. Now in its second year, the program is an overwhelming success and bodes well for the future. To further cement the strength of this initiative, St. Louis Food Bank is providing 100 percent of the food needed to stock the Food Pantry.

By expanding our pre-existing relationship with Operation Food Search and leveraging the commitment from St. Louis Food Bank, **we will develop a program to meet the needs of our patients, coworkers, and community members and become the first hospital system in the St. Louis region to have a formal partnership with local food pantries.**

# THE MISSING PIECE:

# YOU

*Funding the DePaul Food Pantry*

We have identified a suitable space for the SSM Health DePaul Hospital Food Pantry and will allocate a portion of our community benefit fund toward operational expenses. **We need your support to cover the additional funding (\$50,000) that will help develop the infrastructure and acquire the necessary resources to sustain the Food Pantry.** Benefactor support for additional items including storage materials, tote bags, baskets and food packaging are other ways you can help in making this initiative a maintainable success. Once the Food Pantry is in full operation, ongoing operations and support will be covered by community benefit gifts, volunteers, and collaborations with local food pantries.

Join us in this effort to serve the health and hunger needs of our community. Together, we can provide relief and uplift families grappling with food insecurity.



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