

Momentum

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SSMHealth
St. Mary's Hospital
MADISON



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(Read their story on pages 4 and 5.)

Through our exceptional health
care services, we reveal the
healing presence of God.

Inheritance of a great legacy

As the fall season graces our community with its majestic tapestry of colors, we are drawn to the profound theme of inheritance – how change is not just about transition but a continuum that passes on to future generations. The falling leaves, once part of the canopy above, now blankets the earth, offering their essence to nurture new life – a beautiful analogy for the cycles of change and the necessity for investments in our future.

At SSM Health we've witnessed the power of this principle through your enduring support. Just as each falling leaf contributes to the rich soil, your contributions, both past and present, have laid the foundation for remarkable growth and transformation at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital. Your generosity has enabled us to embrace change with purpose and bring about new life, as we adopt cutting-edge medical technologies, enhance patient care, and improve health and wellness in our community.

In that regard, we are thrilled to advance the public phase of the SSM Health St. Mary's Foundation *Healing Hands* campaign and ask that you consider joining us in support. This ambitious comprehensive campaign allows us to improve access to high-quality, high-value care to meet the growing need for complex care in our community. With your continued generous support, we empower forward-thinking initiatives that further establish St. Mary's Hospital as the SSM Health hub for complex care in Wisconsin. (see pages 8-9)

For more than 110 years, your gifts have been instrumental in helping us serve our community with the highest standards of care, even in the face of unprecedented challenges. Your compassion and commitment have touched the lives of countless individuals, providing hope and healing when they needed it most. It is your support that has allowed us to continue our Mission of providing exceptional care to those in need.

As we embrace this season, let us remember that change, as symbolized by the falling leaves, can pave the way for renewal, growth, and transformation. Your generosity has shown us the boundless possibilities that lie ahead, and together, we will continue to make a positive impact on the health and well-being of our community.

Once more, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering dedication to St. Mary's Hospital. Your commitment is a testament to the strength of our community and the interconnectedness we share through a passion for our healing Mission and Vision for the future.

We continue to hold sacred the inheritance of a great legacy established by those who came before us and the generous gifts entrusted to us for the benefit of those we serve. As the promise of new beginnings unfolds before us with the changing of the seasons, we see endless opportunities to make a profound and lasting difference in the lives of those who rely on us for care.



Eric Thornton
President
SSM Health St. Mary's
Hospital - Madison



Dina M. Boyle
Executive Director
SSM Health St. Mary's
Foundation - Madison

St. Mary's School of Nursing alumni celebration

Graduates of the classes of 1969 through 1974 were honored with a final Golden Jubilee.

Alumni from St. Mary's School of Nursing and special guests gathered at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison on Saturday, September 23 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the school's opening and to honor the last six graduating classes with a final Golden Jubilee.

It was a joyous day for celebration with messages from alumni and SSM Health leaders including a slideshow of historic photos of the school and its students. One highlight of the day was the memories shared by Sister Mary Jean Ryan, a member of the 1959 class of St. Mary's School of Nursing who went on to become the first president of SSM Health in 1986.

"Can anyone forget the first injection we gave to a real person that somehow wasn't at all like the oranges we practiced on?" she said. "We had great fun while we learned a lot and made friendships that have lasted our lifetimes. We celebrate all of that, and most of all we are privileged to celebrate a shared history that gives us every right to be proud of the nurses we became. Because we became nurses of character, thanks to the best education we could have had, and with the knowledge that we were and are part of an honorable, very noble profession."

Sister Mary Jean wrapped up her comments with a champagne toast, saying, "Here's to the memories and the friendships we cherish, the joys we've shared, the dreams we've dreamt, and most of all, here's to us!"

Following lunch, alumni association president Marijo Bunbury, class of 1968, shared remarks and presented the six classes of jubilarians. "It was well known that a St. Mary's nurse was a great nurse," Marijo recalled. She described the three impressionable years they lived, learned, and cared for patients on St. Mary's campus, and concluded by reminding her fellow alumni that "St. Mary's will always be your home." The event was capped off with the singing of the hymn "The Bells of St. Mary's," a long-standing tradition and ode to the chapel bell that tolled at St. Mary's for 46 years (1926-1972).



The legacy lives on

St. Mary's School of Nursing graduates were instrumental in establishing the excellent reputation of nursing care that is still alive today. They are proud to leave a legacy through the **St. Mary's School of Nursing Endowment** that represents St. Mary's history of nursing excellence and will continue to support the training of new nurses, nursing scholarships, and the advancement of the practice of nursing for generations to come.

St. Mary's School of Nursing graduates are further honored and remembered through the following generous named gifts and endowments:

- Mary Jean Whalen Iacovoni Nursing Education Center:** for the onboarding of new nurses and continuing education
- St. Mary's School of Nursing History Display:** Gifted by alums Kathy Anderson, Bonnie Mueller and Rosemary Berchem
- Nursing Education & Advancement Fund:** Established by gifts from the class of 1969
- Rita A. Tubbs Endowment:** for Volunteer Scholarship for careers in health care
- Sister Mary Jean Ryan, FSM Endowment:** for St. Mary's Nurse Scholarships
- Beverly Bauer Slack, RN Endowment:** for St. Mary's Nurse Scholarships
- Anne Bormett Dardis Scholarship Endowment:** for St. Mary's Nurse Scholarships
- Carol Viviani Endowment:** for St. Mary's pastoral care ministry

To learn more about establishing a named endowment, please contact the Foundation team at 608-258-5600 or stmarysfoundation@ssmhealth.com.

Meet our new leaders.

Two new leaders joined the SSM Health Madison family recently and we sat down with them to learn a little more about them, their leadership style and vision.



**Eric Thornton, President
SSM Health St. Mary's
Hospital - Madison**

In August, Eric Thornton transitioned into his new role as president of St. Mary's Hospital - Madison. A long-time member of the SSM Health family, Eric began with Dean Health Plan in 2000, and in 2010 joined the planning team for the SSM Health's Janesville campus. After serving in Human Resources and Operations leadership roles, Eric became the hospital's president in November of 2019. Under his leadership, SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital - Janesville has consistently achieved CMS Five-Star ratings. Eric is proud to join the Madison leadership team and excited about St. Mary's Hospital's vision for the future as a regional hub for tertiary care.

Eric attended the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater and holds a Master of Business Administration degree with a focus on general management and human resources management as well as a bachelor's degree in human resources management. His call to a career in health care echoed others influential in his life. Growing up, Eric's grandfather was the administrator for the Janesville Medical Center. In college, he interned at a hospital human resources department, and his wife, Cheryl, has enjoyed a long career as a registered nurse. Eric knows what it means to provide life-sustaining and compassionate care and understands how difficult and rewarding it can be.

What was your impression of St. Mary's Hospital - Madison when you first came into this new leadership role?

The entire St. Mary's Hospital - Madison team has been incredibly welcoming. I have been impressed to hear from employees about the exceptional care that they provide to their patients and their pride and commitment to the SSM Health Mission.

What are your priorities as president of St. Mary's Hospital - Madison?

My priority is to ensure that our patients and SSM Health's vision and values are at the center of all we do. Our people are our most valuable resource, so I want to continue to nurture an environment in which employees are valued and supported to do their best work to provide exceptional, Mission-based care that meets the health care needs of our community.

What is your perception of philanthropy's impact on strategy and patient care?

Today's health care organizations are challenged by the incredible speed of change and innovation and increasing pressure on hospital financials. St. Mary's Hospital is no exception. Our generous donors have and will continue to play a pivotal role in our ability to invest in technology and innovation for the future. Philanthropy will be key to continuing to establish and improve clinical services and train our committed team members.

What keeps you up at night?

Given the speed of change and our commitment to caring for our community now and into the future, we need to ensure that we are preparing today for what our community will need from us tomorrow.



**Dawit Tesfasilassie, Regional
VP, Acute Care Operations
(Southern Markets)**

A seasoned health care leader, Dawit came to SSM Health from the Havasu Regional Medical Center in Arizona, where he had served as the chief operations officer and interim chief executive officer since August 2022. Prior to his work in Arizona, Dawit held several positions from July 2013 to March 2022 with Sutter Health, a Northern California not-for-profit health system. He served as an administrative fellow, a lean consultant, and surgery center administrator before culminating his time with Sutter as assistant administrator for Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital in Sacramento, California.

Dawit holds a master's degree in health services administration from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Arts in public health from University of California-Berkeley. He is responsible for overseeing operations across SSM Health's health ministries in southern Wisconsin markets including Monroe, Janesville and Madison, and will work closely with those leaders.

What was your first impression of SSM Health and the Madison area community?

In my first few days of orientation, I was really impacted by how connected to the Mission everyone was. While every organization has a mission statement, there is a unique focus on it at SSM Health. Each person can recite the Mission statement and connect their work to it. It is powerful to see.

As for my impressions of the Madison community, I had been in the Midwest before and people in Madison really live up to the culture of "Midwest nice". People here are really kind, which contributes to the well-being of the community.

What are your priorities as a leader?

During the first six to nine months, my priority is to learn - to understand the history of each ministry and how they intersect within the continuum of care. I believe you first must know where you came from and understand the past to provide a clear vision for the future.

What do you feel is philanthropy's impact on strategy and patient care?

As a not-for-profit organization, philanthropy is vital to providing care, new services, introducing new technology to our patients and to support our care teams. Without philanthropy, we cannot serve our communities in the way we need to. Philanthropy is essential to carrying out our Mission, Vision, and Values.

What keeps you up at night?

Health care is ever changing. SSM Health has been a fixture in this community for more than 110 years. What keeps me up at night is how are we positioned to provide care for the next 110 years? I believe it is by a commitment to being present. Carrying out our priorities now and living out our Mission will position us well for the future.

Garden Reception

AT BARNWOOD



Celebrating the impact of philanthropy

SSM Health St. Mary's Foundation board hosted the annual Garden Reception on June 22 at Barnwood Events. The event celebrates and recognizes the generous contributions of the Leadership Giving circle benefactors who support the healing Mission of SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital.

Board directors, SSM Health Wisconsin and St. Mary's Hospital leadership, along with friends of St. Mary's Hospital connected in celebration of our shared commitment to the patients and families who rely on us for care. The occasion served as an expression of gratitude for the countless lives impacted through 2022 program support which surpassed \$3.3 million.

Healing Hands campaign announcement

The evening was further highlighted by the first public announcement of the *Healing Hands* campaign — a comprehensive effort to ensure the most advanced tools are in the healing hands of SSM Health St. Mary's skilled providers. This campaign will harness the power of innovation through investments in surgical services and robotics, while also providing philanthropic support for emerging needs, clinical education, and the advancement of community health initiatives. Jenny and Dave Stein, campaign co-chairs, expressed gratitude for the early leadership commitments made during the quiet phase of the campaign, which inspired support exceeding 75% of the \$10 million goal. *(Read full information on the Healing Hands campaign, pg. 8.)*

The following were recognized for early campaign leadership giving:

- Ken Ballweg
- John & Pat Zimbrick
- Fred & Debbie Schwartz
- Marv Levy
- Irving & Dorothy Levy Family Foundation
- Donald & Barbara Boe
- Madison Emergency Physicians
- Jeff & Maralee Tubbs
- Courtier Foundation, Inc.

Thank you to our sponsors:



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- Marquette Associates



Healing Hands

Where innovation meets compassion.

Healing Hands campaign

As a comprehensive campaign, *Healing Hands* aims to put the most advanced tools in the healing hands of our skilled providers while also providing philanthropic support for emerging needs, clinical education, and the advancement of community health initiatives. In wrapping around the hospital's core needs, the campaign will aid in the recruitment of talented students, nurses, advanced practitioners, and physicians who are critical to delivering tertiary care. This truly reflects SSM Health's longtime commitment to our Mission and Values, as well as our vision for **"Peace, hope, and health for every person, family, and community, especially those most in need."**



111 years of compassionate care

Expanding upon SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital - Madison's more than 110-year history of providing compassionate, Mission-based care in Dane County, SSM Health St. Mary's Foundation launched a bold campaign to provide more than \$10 million in philanthropic support to power the organization into a forward-looking era of advanced surgical services and patient care.

Philanthropy has been integral to St. Mary's Hospital and, in fact, helped to build St. Mary's Hospital more than a century ago when eight religious sisters conducted a postcard campaign. The sisters raised the \$25,000 needed to begin construction of the original building. The last comprehensive campaign supported the hospital's East Wing expansion in 2008, which nearly doubled the hospital's size, adding a rooftop helipad and cardiovascular surgical care suites.

Through the *Healing Hands* campaign, philanthropy will once again allow St. Mary's Hospital to realize its goal for the future — to improve access to high-quality, high-value care to meet our community's growing need for complex care.

Impact of early campaign support

Early leadership giving and commitments to the *Healing Hands* campaign have already funded the extraordinary work of a dedicated cardiothoracic team led by Dr. Ghulam Murtaza. This skilled team is converting complex open-heart surgeries to less-invasive, robot-assisted cardiac procedures, reducing patient recovery time from months to weeks — the only program of its kind in Dane County.

Dr. Murtaza and his cardiothoracic surgical team performed their first robot-assisted mitral valve repair in July 2022.

Open Heart Surgery		Robotic Heart Surgery	
Surgeons must open up the breastbone to access the heart with a 6 to 8" incision.	Surgeons insert precision instruments and miniature cameras through small (<1") incisions.		
Time in the hospital: 5-7 DAYS	Time to return to normal activities: 3-6 MONTHS	Time in the hospital: 1-3 DAYS	Time to return to normal activities: 2-4 WEEKS

“Our goal is to build a world-class center of excellence for cardiac surgical services, including minimally invasive and robotic surgeries. This is a major milestone but only the beginning of what the future holds for us.”

— Dr. Ghulam Murtaza, cardiothoracic surgeon



Annabelle was all smiles the morning after surgery, knowing she could soon get back to the life she enjoys with a mended heart.

Benefits of minimally invasive surgery

At 89 years old, Annabelle required a double mitral valve repair, successfully completed by Dr. Murtaza and team in August. Without this level of technology, Annabelle might not have otherwise been a good candidate for traditional open-heart surgery. She shares how blessed she was for the healing hands of her care team who had access to a robotic system for her minimally invasive procedure. “I’m so grateful this procedure is available at St. Mary’s Hospital,” she said. “It allowed a quick recovery to get me back home.”

Cardiac center for excellence

Dr. Murtaza and his team sought guidance from the world leaders at the University of Chicago Medical Center and University of West Virginia to train and build the skill set needed. St. Mary’s Hospital is the only hospital in Dane County and one of 150 hospitals nationwide to offer robot-assisted minimally invasive intracardiac surgery for heart disease patients. Using the da Vinci surgical robotic system, St. Mary’s Hospital can transform these complex procedures from open-heart surgeries to less invasive procedures, reducing recovery time from months to weeks.

Benefits across areas of care

Advancing traditional surgical procedures to less-invasive robotic surgery offers significant benefits to patients, including reduced length of stay, less pain, fewer complications, and a quicker recovery. From the physicians’ perspective, robot-assisted surgery allows doctors to use tiny instruments to perform complex procedures with more precision, flexibility, and control than is possible with conventional techniques. The surgeon controls the instruments and benefits from the enhanced visualization, accuracy, and reach of the robotic arms.

With applications spanning a wide range of patient needs, robotics are growing in use for complex procedures in nearly all areas of care including cardiothoracic, colorectal, gynecological, head and neck, urologic, orthopedics, and general surgery.

Like Annabelle, other patients have benefited first-hand from the advanced technology of robot-assisted surgery. As a physical therapist, Anma works with patients after traditional surgeries and understands the challenges many experience with the time it takes to regain mobility and fully heal. Dr. Murtaza performed a lumpectomy on Anma’s right breast utilizing the da Vinci robot earlier this year. With her minimally invasive procedure, Anma felt fortunate to have left the hospital the day after surgery and was surprised by how quickly she got back to daily activities without any setbacks.

“Investments in surgical innovation and robotics will allow us to offer minimally invasive procedures to more patients than ever before, which improves outcomes, gets patients back to doing what they love, and opens beds for those waiting for a higher level of care.”

— Eric Thornton, St. Mary’s Hospital president

GIVING TUESDAY

GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good.

The GivingTuesday global network of nonprofit organizations collaborates year-round to inspire generosity around the world, with a common mission to build a world where generosity is part of everyday life.

It's all about giving back with a spirit of gratitude. This year, we invite you to live out your gratitude with a gift to the *Healing Hands* campaign. Your gifts will be matched, and together we can exceed our goal of \$10 million to advance the healing Mission of SSM Health and improve care for all.

"Throughout the early phases of the campaign our comprehensive vision has inspired extraordinary gifts, however, we need additional support from our caring community," remarked Dina Boyle, St. Mary's Foundation executive director. "Our progress so far speaks to the trust people have in our leadership, clinicians, and staff, and gratitude inspired by exceptional care."

Investing in our future

This is a special moment in time for St. Mary's Foundation to have such a significant impact on caring for patients in the communities we serve – especially those most in need. We are honored to have so many caring individuals behind this campaign and invite others in the community to join us with an investment in St. Mary's future.

Your gifts will be matched!

With \$1.5 million remaining to raise, a generous couple made an extraordinary commitment to help us reach our goal with a commitment to match gifts received by December 31, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$750,000!

"We are deeply grateful for this matching gift and for all the visionary donors partnering with us to invest in St. Mary's future and its longstanding tradition of holistic care," said campaign co-chair Jenny Stein. "This campaign is truly where innovation meets compassion."

To learn more about St. Mary's Foundation's *Healing Hands* campaign, contact Dina Boyle or Nicole Schultz at **608-258-5600**, or contact a member of our steering committee:

***Healing Hands* campaign steering committee**

Jenny & Dave Stein, campaign co-chairs

Fr. Pat Norris, OP

Jeff Tubbs

Eric Thornton

Kyle & Elizabeth Nondorf

Sarah & Mike Kuemmel

Sarah Groessl, MD, & Jeff Masciopinto, MD

Ken Ballweg, campaign honorary chair



You can also visit us online to learn more at ssmhealth.com/healinghands or scan the QR code to give today!



Event proceeds benefit community health

The 2nd annual SSM Health Madison Open took place on Monday, September 11 at Blackhawk Country Club. The day started out overcast but turned into a perfect day for golf. There were 120 registered golfers, five event sponsors and 18 hole sponsors who came together to support community health initiatives, raising more than \$115,000. Proceeds from the event advance efforts to improve reproductive health, chronic conditions, behavioral health, injury prevention, and support the funding of pediatric comfort items.



Our gratitude for generous support

The SSM Health Madison Open would not have been possible without the generous support of our caring community, the volunteer support provided by St. Mary's Hospital volunteer services, and all those who attended the event or contributed financially. Generous in-kind support was provided by Paoli Mill & My Topsy Gypsy, and hole-in-one packages were gifted by Kayser Automotive and Zimbrick of Madison.

Save the date and plan to join us next year:
Monday, September 16, 2024

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Momentum

Dina M. Boyle
Executive Director

Please contact SSM Health
St. Mary's Foundation - Madison
to receive an electronic copy
of Momentum.

Mission and Values Matter

Make a difference with an estate gift.



“As SSM Health St. Mary’s Care Center vigil team volunteers, we found the experience of being present with someone at a vulnerable and personal time — end of a life — is not only rewarding, but a great privilege. We wanted our estate plan to support this life respecting program and reflect our values with a gift to St. Mary’s after our lifetimes.”

— Dr. Alan & Laurie
Schwartzstein