

Promoting heart health across our region

Heart failure is America's silent killer, with cardiovascular diseases responsible for almost 900,000 deaths annually and 12% of total health expenditures. Heart failure — a long-term, progressive condition — happens when the heart cannot pump enough oxygen-rich blood to meet the body's needs. People may not notice the symptoms of heart disease until it is extremely serious.

SSM Health hospitals and health care providers know the effect increased prevention, diagnosis, and intervention can have on those living with cardiovascular disease. Our efforts can help manage heart disease and reduce its impact on our loved ones, friends, and neighbors.

Generous support from our benefactors can also help the expert SSM Health cardiologists and providers in administering the most advanced care available through diagnostic treatments, state-of-the-art therapies, and community-wide wellness interventions.

Our History and Mission

The Mission of the SSM Health Foundation – St. Louis is rooted in a rich legacy of courage.

For 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



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Generous support needed

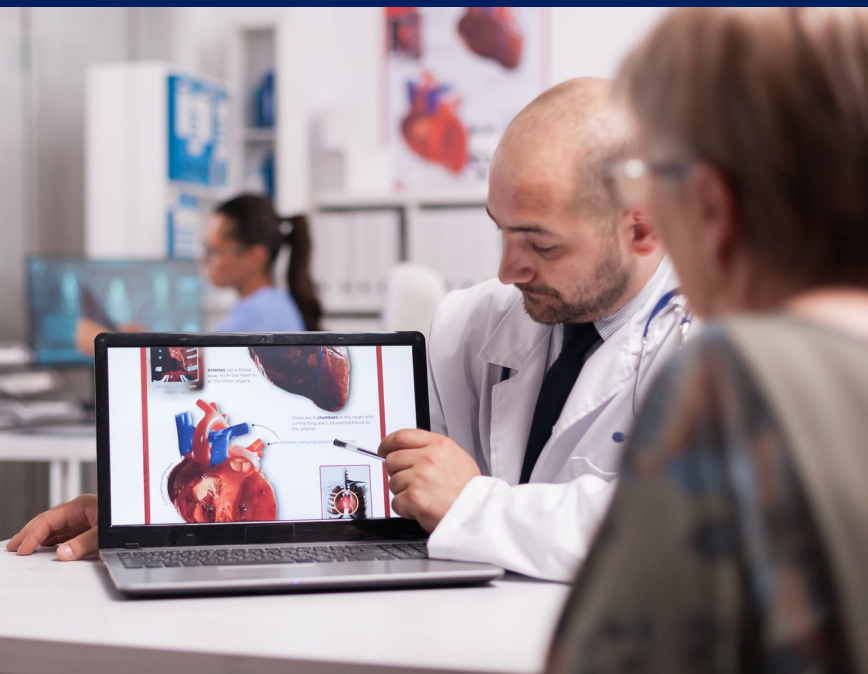
Help us expand our heart and vascular care services that support individuals living with heart disease and heart failure in our greater St. Louis region.

In Missouri, there are

15,934

heart disease deaths annually.

Give today at givetossmhealth.org.



The why: Heart health is St. Louis' #1 health concern

Nationally, heart disease is the leading cause of death for men and women. 6.2 million Americans are currently experiencing heart failure, and heart disease mortality rates in St. Louis remain above the U.S. average. By identifying the silent symptoms of advancing heart failure, managing heart disease before it progresses, and reducing hospitalizations, our community can stabilize and continue toward a healthier, stronger future.



*2020 statistics, ranking order: high (#1) to low mortality (#50)

The need: Reduce the impact of heart disease on our neighbors

When Terrance began feeling short of breath, his doctor referred him to a cardiologist, who recommended a CardioMEMS™ pulmonary artery sensor. The tiny device transmits information about Terrance's heart health to his provider, who monitors Terrance's condition and can make real-time recommendations to help him continue to live an active, fulfilled life.

Our dedicated cardiologists and heart health experts are leading community-wide wellness initiatives, including providing Terrance's CardioMEMS™ and other implants, such as Barostim™, a non-invasive device that works by stimulating baroreceptors that tell your nervous system how to regulate heart, kidney, and vascular function.

The how: Programs built to improve and maintain heart health

Your gift may support a diverse series of heart and vascular care programs across our SSM Health hospitals and at our 8 SSM Health heart failure clinics in the St. Louis region, including:

- **Expanding patient access.** Whether it's cardiovascular clinical trials or more doctor-patient communication, our caregivers strive to give hope for the future.
- **Providing cutting-edge treatments.** Our hospitals' latest in diagnosis and innovative treatments, such as Barostim™ and CardioMEMS™ therapies, will be available to patients, regardless of ability to pay.
- **Participating in clinical research.** Your support increases opportunities for our providers to participate in research that benefits our patients across the country — and around the world.
- **Empowering our providers and clinical support staff.** Caring for our patient population requires ongoing education, such as specialized certification courses.
- **Helping the next generation live healthier lives.** We partner with other local organizations, such as the American Heart Association and Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service, to support the areas we serve and ensure patients' social determinants of health are met.

*Statistics from: American Heart Association, CDC, Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services, St. Louis County Department of Public Health.