



ST. JOSEPH'S HEALTH FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2025

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## WELCOME

**Dear St. Joseph’s Health Family,**

On behalf of St. Joseph’s Health and St. Joseph’s Health Foundation, thank you for your generous and continuous support of the St. Joseph’s Health System this past fiscal year. With the help of over 1,000 donors and grantors, the St. Joseph’s Health Foundation raised \$7,587,000 in fiscal year 2025!

Your generosity allowed us to fund several capital, programmatic, and education initiatives throughout the fiscal year, including vital equipment for several service lines, funding to implement a Patient Care Technician Training program, and endowment of funds and awards across the hospital system and College of Nursing.

This year, we had the pleasure of hosting events that brought our community together, including the St. Joseph’s Health Golf Classic, our Circle of Caring Donor Appreciation Dinner, and the St. Joseph’s Appreciation Day Breakfast where we had the opportunity to recognize members of our St. Joseph’s Health family for their efforts on behalf of St. Joseph’s Health and our Central New York Community. Congratulations to this past year’s St. Joseph’s Appreciation Day recipients: Philip A. Falcone, MD, MHL, FACS; Michelle McGrath; and Loretta Quigley, Ed.D, RN, CNE.

And speaking of recognition, this past May the St. Joseph’s Health Foundation launched its inaugural Lifetime Achievement Awards at the 31st Annual St. Joseph’s Health Gala. We had the honor of recognizing two award recipients this past year. Congratulations to A. John Merola, MD and the Auxiliary of St. Joseph’s Health Hospital for being inaugural award recipients! We are truly fortunate to have such outstanding leaders and advocates as part of our St. Joseph’s Health family!

As you know, we launched the College of Nursing’s 125th Anniversary Campaign back in October 2023, where we set out to raise \$1.25 million in support of College of Nursing students in need of full and partial tuition scholarships. I am happy to report that we successfully concluded this campaign by not only achieving the goal but raising \$1.6 million. We cannot thank the donors of this very special campaign enough for their support of St. Joseph’s students.

Thank you once again for your generous support of St. Joseph’s Health. We know that you have many options when deciding where to give and we are grateful that you place your trust in us. Your generosity continues to inspire us and makes a long-lasting difference for our patients, students, and the entire Central New York community.

Sincerely,

**William N. Wildridge III, CPA,**  
Chairman, St. Joseph’s Health Foundation



## The Austin Family Legacy

For Carl Austin Jr., partner at Bowers CPAs and Advisors and recent addition to the St. Joseph's Health Foundation Board of Directors, the decision to step into the volunteer leadership position was a full-circle moment in his relationship with the institution, continuing a legacy his father had begun decades before.

"To me, St. Joseph's is intertwined with our family's life. It's hard not to think of my father as a physician at St. Joe's," Carl Jr. said. "For me, by contributing to the Foundation, it's a way to make sure my father's – and mother's – legacy lives on at St. Joe's in some small way."

His mother, Mary, is a member of the Class of 1947 at St. Joseph's College of Nursing.

For more than 40 years, his father, Dr. Carl Austin Sr., worked as a physician in internal medicine, in private practice and at St. Joseph's Hospital, where his career was extensive. He served in a number of positions, ranging from Director of Laboratories to Chairman of the Department of Medicine to St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center's first Medical Director, a position he began after retiring from his medical practice.

Throughout his career, Dr. Austin served on numerous boards for local nonprofits, including Loretto, St. Camillus, Home Aides of Central New York, and others. His contributions to the Central New York Community were recognized with several awards, including the Sister Patricia Ann Award, the Outstanding Clinician Teachers Award, and the St. Joseph the Worker Award.

"He was a champion for nurses throughout his career," Carl Jr. shared. "A few quotes I remember from his retirement dinner were one by former St. Joseph's Chief Executive Officer, Bill Watt, who said my father was 'worshiped by his patients,' and one by

Dr. Richard Hehir, who said my father was 'the gold standard for physicians.'"

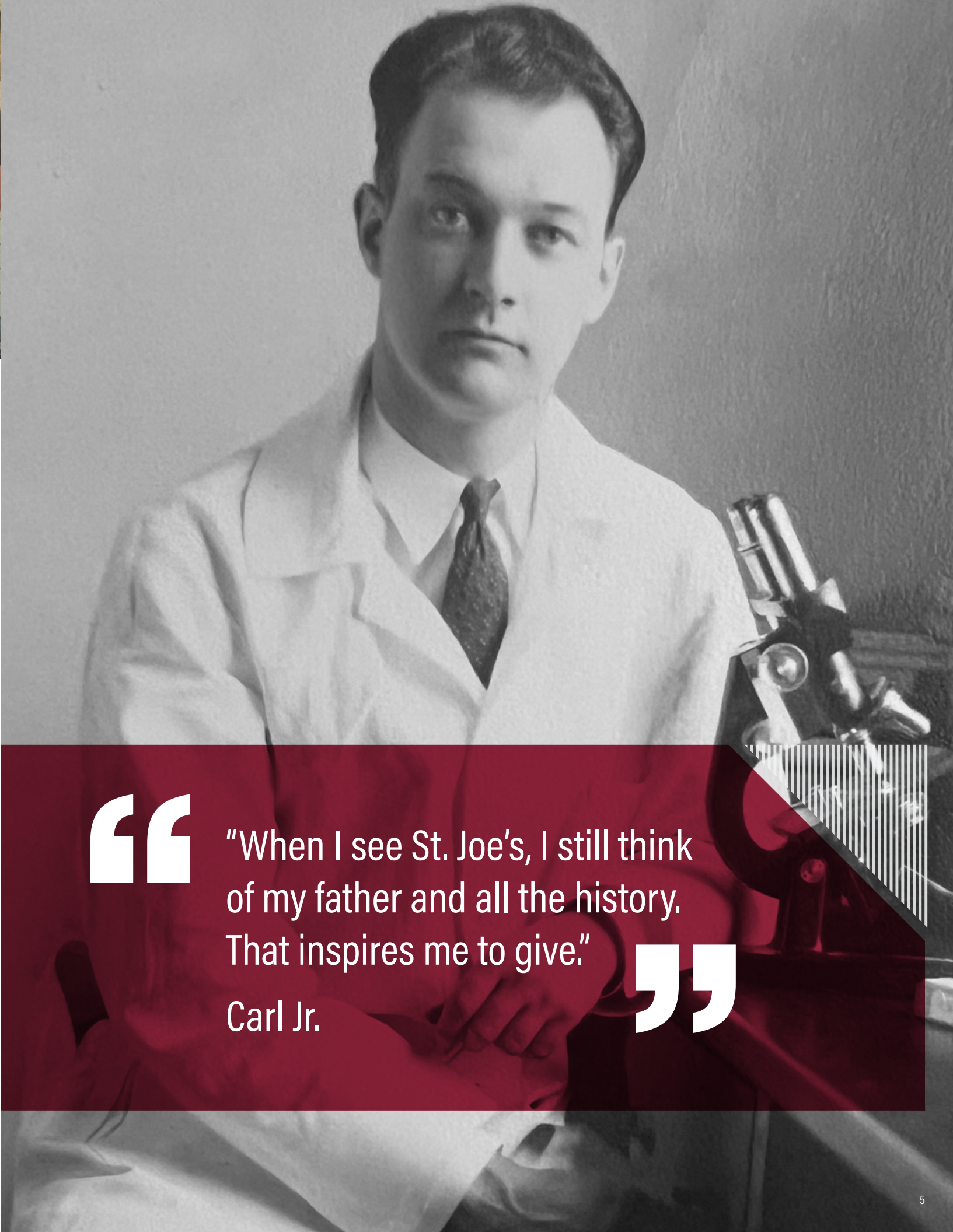
Carl Jr. credits his father's drive to his upbringing, describing him as a "Depression-era kid" who witnessed his own father lose his job and was forced to move constantly. Carl Sr. was determined to avoid that type of life for himself and his children, his son explained.

As for what drew him to health care in particular: "I asked once and he had a pretty simple answer – he thought he'd be good at it," Carl Jr. said.

Carl Jr.'s earliest memories of his father's work include tagging along on rounds at St. Joseph's and visiting his office in the State Tower Building in Syracuse, NY, a space he shared with brothers George and Jim Heitzman – "a couple of other St. Joe's legends," as Carl Jr. described his father's colleagues.

Through the decades that followed, Dr. Austin's work ethic influenced his family, both in and out of the health care field. Three of Carl Jr.'s four sisters followed in their mother's footsteps with successful careers as nurses, and his nephew now works in data analytics at St. Joseph's. While Carl Jr. chose a different profession as a CPA, his father's influence inspired him to strive for excellence in every aspect of life – from career to community involvement to his role as a husband, father, brother, and son.

Now, as a St. Joseph's Health Foundation Board of Director, Carl Jr. continues to honor his father's legacy, including through donations to the College of Nursing's Dr. Carl I. Austin Memorial Nursing Scholarship.



“When I see St. Joe's, I still think of my father and all the history. That inspires me to give.”

Carl Jr.

ST. JOSEPH'S HEALTH FOUNDATION

# Circle of Caring Donor Appreciation Dinner



St. Joseph's Health Foundation Circle of Caring Donor Appreciation Dinner was held on November 6, 2024. The annual event – which is a benefit of being a St. Joseph's Health Circle of Caring member – is held each fall to honor and appreciate our Circle of Caring members. Special thanks to Patrick and Ellen O'Connor for hosting this year's dinner.

The 2024 dinner – which welcomed 75 guests – included a social cocktail hour, followed by a sit-down dinner and dessert. The evening included a presentation by Trinity Health New York President and Chief Executive Officer, Steven Hanks, MD.

Gifts to the Circle of Caring enable St. Joseph's to provide enhanced patient care and comfort, and to keep our dedicated staff at the forefront of the newest developments in technology and treatment.

Mission driven since opening its doors in 1869, St. Joseph's has been committed to providing a higher level of care for all those in need, throughout our Central New York Community, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Thank you for helping to keep the Circle strong by joining today.



Scan QR code to learn more.

## Walkways of Caring

St. Joseph's Health Walkways of Caring offer the opportunity to honor or memorialize a friend, family member, military hero, or someone who has had an impact on the life of a patient, hospital colleague, or community member.

The walkways are in several beautiful courtyard settings on the hospital campus. The walks are paved with engraved commemorative 8" x 8" bricks along with engraved park benches.

Locations include the St. Francis Garden at the front of the hospital; Walk of Valor, at the flagpole in front of the hospital, which pays tribute to veterans, reservists, and active-duty military personnel; St. Joseph's Circle, around the statue of St. Joseph; and Caritas Park (Latin for "charity" or "love"), in

front of St. Joseph's College of Nursing which honors nurses, alumnus, faculty, and staff from the College.

Bricks are installed, weather permitting, in the spring and fall of each year. A very limited number of engraved benches are available. Your tax-deductible gift toward a brick or bench will help support several programs throughout the St. Joseph's Health system.

For more information about our Walkways of Caring, contact St. Joseph's Health Foundation at (315) 703-2137 or [foundation@sjhsyr.org](mailto:foundation@sjhsyr.org).



## 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic

Nearly 300 golfers teed off simultaneously on three award winning golf courses - Atunyote, Kaluhyat, and Shenendoah - at the Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona, NY on Thursday, September 5, 2024. The Golf Classic is one of the region's most anticipated charity golf tournaments.

Since its inception, the Classic has netted close to \$5 million. To address the nation-wide nursing shortage, proceeds from the 2024 Classic benefitted St. Joseph's College of Nursing - Building Our Endowment to Support the Future of Nursing.

"A huge thank you to the loyal supporters, golfers, Golf Classic committee, and the 50+ volunteers who are vital to the success of the event. And a special thanks to our presenting sponsor - Syracuse Orthopedic Specialists, PC," said Pamela Kleine, Tournament Director and Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations. "We are incredibly grateful for their continued support of our mission."

For information about the Golf Classic contact the Foundation at 315.703.2137 or visit the website at [foundation.sjhsyr.org](http://foundation.sjhsyr.org).

## Evening Amongst the Stars Gala

### Celebrating Central New York's Best and Brightest

St. Joseph's Health 31st Annual Gala Dinner Dance - Evening Amongst the Stars Gala - was held on Friday, May 30, 2025, at the Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona, NY.

We were very proud to honor A. John Merola, MD and the Auxiliary of St. Joseph's Health Hospital with Lifetime Achievement Awards. Both Dr. Merola and the Auxiliary have contributed so much to St. Joseph's and the Central New York Community. Their unending generosity, compassion and accomplishments were highlighted and celebrated during the event. The Gala also featured special videos for each honoree.

St. Joseph's Health has been mission driven for more than 155 years. The Gala raises critically important funds, which help ensure compassionate care for every patient, every day. Since its inception, the event has netted nearly \$6.4 million. We thank each and every one of you for your incredible support in making the Gala a success.

This year's event welcomed 650 guests which included family and friends of the honorees, generous donors and supporters, business and community leaders, physicians, nurses, members of St. Joseph's Boards, colleagues, and volunteers. Once again, the Gala's non-profit partner, AmFund, offered several once-in-a-lifetime-bucket-list trips in the silent auction, which featured other high-end donated items from many local businesses.



Everyone who supports St. Joseph's, is a partner in our future and we thank you all for the unwavering support.

Photo 1 - Meredith Price presents A. John Merola, MD with the Lifetime Achievement Award

Photo 2- The Auxiliary of St. Joseph's Health Hospital

## St. Joseph's Day Appreciation Breakfast

St. Joseph's Health Foundation held its Annual St. Joseph's Day Appreciation Breakfast on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in East Syracuse, NY.

This annual event allows us to celebrate our namesake, St. Joseph, and our hospital founder, St. Marianne Cope. Their tireless dedication to serving others was remarkable. Following in their footsteps, St. Joseph's Health Foundation works tirelessly to further the system's mission of service to the residents of Central New York. St. Joseph's remains steadfast to its founder's principles and mission through our continued commitment to transform health care by providing high-quality care to every patient, every day.

It is an honor and a privilege to thank those who give so freely of their time, talent, and treasure in support of St. Joseph's Health, St. Joseph's Health Foundation, and the people in our community and surrounding region.

The event is held each year on or around St. Joseph's Day - March 19. The honorees are presented with The Worker Award for their significant contributions and dedication.

The 2025 honorees include: Philip Falcone, MD, MHL, FACS; Michelle McGrath; and Loretta Quigley, Ed.D, RN, CNE

Pictured left to right:  
St. Joseph's Day Breakfast - Vince Kuss, Vice President for St. Joseph's Health Foundation; Loretta Quigley; Philip Falcone, MD; Michelle McGrath; and Meredith Price, Senior Vice President Hospital Operations, St. Joseph's Health



# The Grants Office at St. Joseph's Health Raised More Than \$5.6 Million in FY25

EVERY GRANT IS MORE THAN FUNDING - IT IS AN INVESTMENT IN PEOPLE, INNOVATION, AND COMPASSIONATE CARE.

## INVESTING IN PEOPLE; BUILDING TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE TODAY

**New York State (NYS) Department of Health** Increasing Training Capacity workforce development funding opportunity provided a \$1,979,912 grant to help St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center Hospital (SJHHC) prepare, mentor, and train a steady pipeline of high-quality patient care technicians (PCTs). This project proposed a team-based PCT-Registered Nurse (RN) model that trains PCTs to work side-by-side with RNs in the acute care setting, under the RN's watchful eye and extensive skill set. This model allows RNs to practice at the top of their licensure while shifting some of their patient care tasks to the PCT within the scope of their training and policy guidelines. This project enhances an already used Level-1 PCT curriculum to provide high-quality training to ensure all PCTs have the same general training before they are assigned to specific hospital departments where they then receive unit-specific training (e.g., cardiac, orthopedic, general surgery, etc.). Expanding on the existing PCT program, an advanced Level-2 PCT curriculum was created, building on the Level-1 experience, to grow the PCT role to include duties such as performing a standard 12-lead ECG test, monitoring ECG telemetry equipment, providing basic care for colostomy patients, prepping patients for surgery, and learning to safely draw blood samples. Education for advanced PCTs leads to them completing SJHHC's EKG class, phlebotomy competencies, and the National Healthcare Association exam.

In 2024, the **Mother Cabrini Health Foundation (MCHF)** provided a grant to develop "Outside In, Inside Up" – a 2-part workforce development program that collaborates with community-based organizations that offer job readiness training as a way to broaden program outreach and increase program awareness. In 2025, MCHF was awarded an additional \$100,000 to support a second year of successful outcomes for SJHHC colleagues. Year One focused on removing barriers to employment for low-income, refugee and immigrant populations, and medical professionals trained in other countries, proactively reaching out to engage individuals interested in entry-level positions (i.e., patient care technicians, hospital security, environmental services, patient transporters, etc.). In Year Two, this work continued, and the program focused on creating career advancement pathways that support success and growth for current SJHHC staff and new hires, enabling colleagues to achieve their career goals. Unique programming developed as part of these grant activities have helped participants address language barriers, learn key aspects to business culture, and better understand a variety of soft skills in the workplace.



## FROM HOSPITAL WALLS TO NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS: COMMUNITY IMPACT

With a \$525,000 grant, St. Joseph's Food Farmacy is in its fourth year of fighting food insecurity and improving health outcomes for patients with chronic conditions. A grant award from the **Mother Cabrini Health Foundation** makes it possible for this community-facing program to provide nutritious food, one-on-one education, and cooking resources to patients in need. The funding also expands partnerships with community-based organizations, increasing outreach to vulnerable populations, including refugees, seniors, and low-income families. Since its founding in 2021, the Food Farmacy has worked in collaboration with community partners to serve 4,863 individuals – providing more than 222,000 meals through multiple program sites and community food pantries, including healthy, culturally relevant options for refugees and immigrants who reside in the City of Syracuse. The Food Farmacy also participates in Community Outreach Pop-Up events that support community members in need with behavioral health services, open enrollment for insurance, care coordination, free healthy snacks, winter clothing, and more.

A \$1,000 grant from **Price Chopper's Golub Foundation** was used to purchase a larger refrigerator/freezer for St. Joseph's Colleague Food Pantry. The extra storage space allows the Pantry to stock items like fresh meats, dairy products, and frozen fruits and vegetables – options that were previously limited due to space constraints. The Pantry reflects St. Joseph's core value of reverence by honoring the dignity of all team members by ensuring they have access to the essentials they need, with dignity and compassion.





## EMPOWERING OUR TEAM THROUGH EDUCATION

A \$25,000 grant from the **Mother Cabrini Health Foundation** has enabled St. Joseph's Health to establish the OB Academy, a specialized training program for newly hired obstetrical nurses and those with fewer than 5 years of experience in Obstetrics (OB) or Labor & Delivery nursing. By standardizing education in labor and delivery, obstetrics, and postpartum care, the OB Academy equips nurses with the skills and confidence to quickly recognize and respond to complications. This program ultimately improves patient safety and outcomes for expectant mothers and their newborns.

Over time, **Health Research, Inc.** has provided ongoing grant support to St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center (SJHHC). In 2025, another \$54,000 Hospital Preparedness grant was received which provides training, disaster exercises, service coordination and a process improvement feedback mechanism to enhance the ability to respond to large-scale local and regional disasters.

## NURTURING THE NEXT GENERATION OF NURSES

To enhance supports and services for students with disabilities enrolled at St. Joseph's College of Nursing, the **NYS Education Department** awarded a \$2,056 grant to be used to create an environment where students feel included. Funds were used, in part, to purchase fidget tools and activities that help students with self-regulation by providing physical and sensory input to help them manage anxiety, improve focus, increase attention, and calm nerves – all aimed at helping them better engage with classroom tasks and activities, and decrease stress related to test-taking. To educate students, faculty, and staff about students with disabilities, the College's Library collection has been expanded to include books such as "Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century" and "Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist". A new area was also added to the Library that focuses on enjoyment reading (versus educational reading for courses), and these books are added to that growing collection.

The **NYS Education Department** provided a \$4,689 grant through the Coordinated Collection Development Aid program to the College of Nursing at SJHHC. State aid helps to expand library offerings such as textbooks, and other library materials with a focus on resource sharing.

St. Joseph's College of Nursing received a \$3,000 grant award from the **Central New York Library Resource Council (CLRC)** to be used to expand library collections, databases and/or technology. "This CLRC grant is awarded through the New York State Hospital Library Services Program.



## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: BALANCING THE NEEDS OF HEALERS AND THE PEOPLE THEY SERVE

A \$258,000 grant was provided by the **Onondaga County Department of Children and Family Services** to pilot a project that offers a mental health response, as a diversion to a police response, for Persons In Crisis within Onondaga County. As part of this project, a 2-person Mobile Crisis Outreach team was established to provide immediate, in-person support to individuals experiencing or at risk of a mental health or substance use crisis. Working under the direction of a psychiatrist, the team provides services that include crisis intervention, evaluations, emergency referrals to outpatient mental health clinics in the community, referrals to case management services and other programs specific to the individual's demographics and age-specific needs and facilitate other crisis planning.

St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center (SJHHC) is enhancing care provided at its OMH-licensed Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP) through a \$1,028,705 CPEP Investment grant from the **NYS Office of Mental Health**. These funds support the development of Peer Bridger services in CPEP and help strengthen crisis outreach follow-up services. Peer Bridgers are certified peer specialists who work with individuals in a psychiatric emergency setting (i.e., CPEP) to help them transition back to the community. They use their personal experience with mental health challenges to provide support, guidance, and hope to patients leaving inpatient care.

The **NYS Department of Health** awarded SJHHC with a \$1,448,539 Vital Access Provider (VAP) grant to support initiatives that reconfigure hospital operations, improve quality of care and access to needed services, and ensure health equity and continued access to essential health services for vulnerable populations.

The **NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH)** Community Mental Health Loan Repayment Program (CMHLRP) provides loan repayment to mental health professionals working in areas with high need, such as with underserved populations. The program allows organizations to apply on behalf of eligible behavioral health professionals for varying amounts over a three-year period. The program provides financial assistance to repay student loans for professionals in eligible roles including licensed master of social workers, clinical social workers, mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, creative art therapists, psychoanalysts, and psychologists. In 2025, OMH awarded three loan repayment grants to SJHHC in the amounts of \$30,000; \$30,000; and \$20,664.

## GRANTS IN ACTION: PUTTING PATIENTS FIRST

A \$108,000 grant award from the **Saint Agatha Foundation** was used to purchase a state-of-the-art Trident Specimen Radiography System by Hologic. This new equipment is being used directly in the operating room, enhancing care for breast cancer patients by streamlining workflows, reducing length of surgeries, and improving patients' wait times. Surgeons have access to high-quality specimen images within seconds, allowing for instant verification that small areas of breast cancer have been fully removed. Founded by Laurie Mezzalingua in 2004, the Saint Agatha Foundation is dedicated to providing support, comfort and care for breast cancer patients in Central New York.

A generous \$37,044 grant from the **Syracuse Dispensary Fund**, a field-of-interest fund at the **Central New York Community Foundation**, is funding the purchase of six point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) devices to enhance cardiovascular care at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center. These portable tools allow our clinical teams to assess heart failure patients faster and more accurately, right at the bedside, helping reduce hospital stays and readmissions. A huge step forward in improving outcomes for our community.

Thanks to a \$5,000 **Excellus BCBS Health & Wellness Award**, St. Joseph's Health Primary Care Center-West (PCC-W) is expanding access to essential tools that help patients better manage their hypertension. Grant funding provides free blood pressure cuffs and pill organizers to PCC-W patients in need, who are diagnosed with hypertension, supporting medication adherence, home monitoring, and better long-term health outcomes.



## SAINT AGATHA FOUNDATION GRANT HELPS IMPROVE BREAST CANCER SURGERY

Thanks to a generous grant from the **Saint Agatha Foundation**, St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center has added a valuable new tool to its Breast Care and Surgery program – the Trident Specimen Radiography System by Hologic. This advanced imaging device is now in use at our Northeast Outpatient Ambulatory Surgery Center in Fayetteville, NY.

The Trident system allows surgeons to take high-resolution X-ray images of breast tissue samples right in the operating room. This helps confirm that the surgeon has removed the correct area of tissue during breast-conserving surgery – commonly known as a lumpectomy.

Because many breast cancers are now found early through routine mammograms, most surgeries focus on removing only the small area of concern rather than the whole breast. To remove small areas of cancer, the surgeon uses a fine wire – previously placed by Radiology – to find and remove lesions, followed by an X-ray to confirm that the cancer was completely excised. Before the new equipment, surgeons had to send each tissue sample to the Department of Radiology, where an X-ray would be taken, and then wait for a phone call to confirm that the cancer was removed. This process, while effective, caused delays and extended operating times.

Now, with the Trident imager right in the surgical suite, the removed piece of breast tissue is placed directly into the specimen imager, allowing surgeons to check their work within seconds. The result is a smoother, faster, and more efficient procedure, allowing our teams to perform more surgeries each day and reduce wait times for cancer patients.

St. Joseph's cares for more breast cancer patients than any other program in Central New York, and this important upgrade helps ensure those patients receive the best possible care. We are deeply grateful to the Saint Agatha Foundation for helping us continue our mission of providing compassionate, state-of-the-art treatment for every patient we serve.

## MOTHER CABRINI HEALTH FOUNDATION SUPPORTS OB ACADEMY FOR NURSES

The **Mother Cabrini Health Foundation** made it possible for St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center to create the "OB Academy", a special education and training program for nurses working in Labor & Delivery and the Postpartum Unit.

The goal of the OB Academy is simple but powerful – to give nurses the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to provide the safest and highest-quality care for mothers and babies. The grant supported the creation of the curriculum, educational materials, and additional training through professional programs such as the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) and Spinning Babies®.

The curriculum covers a wide range of topics, from pregnancy and childbirth to newborn and postpartum care. Lessons include how the body changes during pregnancy, common complications, labor and delivery processes, newborn conditions, and care after birth. Nurses learn through classroom activities, hands-on practice, videos, and interactive games that make learning fun and memorable.

The program is already making a big difference. Within six months of program implementation, 65% of nurses completed the OB Academy, showing an average 30% improvement between their pre- and post-education test scores. Nurses say the course was informative, engaging, and helped them feel more confident in caring for patients.

With support from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, the OB Academy is helping St. Joseph's build a stronger, more confident nursing team – one that ensures safer births, healthier babies, and happier families across Central New York.



## BUILDING THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE OF TOMORROW

Through a nearly \$2 million grant from the **New York State Department of Health**, St. Joseph's Health is expanding training opportunities to grow and strengthen the local healthcare workforce. This initiative focuses on creating clear, supportive pathways for community members to enter and advance within the healthcare field – starting right here at St. Joseph's.

The Patient Care Technician (PCT) role was identified as the ideal first step for individuals interested in healthcare but without prior experience. With this grant, St. Joseph's Health developed a tailored curriculum and hands-on clinical experiences designed to provide a purposeful, gradual introduction to the PCT role and the hospital environment. The goal: to connect with underserved populations in the Syracuse area, inspire interest in healthcare careers, and build a strong, compassionate workforce from within our community.

As Lenore Boris, former Dean of the St. Joseph's College of Nursing and grant author, put it best: "We need to bring workers in – and get them hooked on healthcare!"

The grant also supports current PCTs through a clinical ladder program, offering advanced training and career development opportunities. Participants can pursue certification through the National Healthcare Association to become Certified Patient Care Technicians (CPCTs), reinforcing professional growth and improving retention.

By investing in people and providing meaningful career pathways, St. Joseph's Health is not only filling critical roles but also empowering individuals to build lasting, rewarding careers in healthcare—strengthening both our team and the health of our community.



## EMPOWERED PRACTICE. SHARPENED SKILLS. STRONGER OUTCOMES.

Thanks to a generous grant from the **Flora Bernice Smith Foundation**, St. Joseph's Health is taking nurse training to the next level with the addition of simulation-based education. This exciting program gives new nurses the opportunity to strengthen their clinical judgment, emergency response, and patient safety skills—before they ever step into a real-life crisis.

Today's healthcare environment is fast-paced and complex. Nurses must make quick, confident decisions when faced with medical emergencies. Through the support of the Flora Bernice Smith Foundation, St. Joseph's has invested in iSimulate technology – high-fidelity simulation equipment that recreates real medical scenarios in a safe, controlled environment. These hands-on sessions bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world care, helping nurses build confidence, teamwork, and critical thinking.

To date, simulation training has reached:

- 83 staff through the 3-credit IPCE Codes Class
- 75 nurse residents in the Vizient Nurse Residency Program
- 73 colleagues through Mock Codes
- 26 staff in Critical Care Cross-Training
- 20 staff during various hospital unit Skills Days

And the program is still growing, with additional classes scheduled throughout the year.

The feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive:

- "This class gave me more confidence."
- "It helped me communicate better and feel more comfortable in emergencies."
- "Now I can think ahead and expect certain outcomes."
- "This will improve my clinical practice."

These comments reflect the heart of St. Joseph's mission—to empower nurses, strengthen skills, and ensure every patient receives exceptional, safe, and compassionate care.

With the help of the Flora Bernice Smith Foundation, our nurses are learning to lead with confidence and excellence, turning education into empowerment and simulation into stronger patient outcomes.

# Volunteer Services

St. Joseph's Health is fortunate to have a dedicated team of volunteers who – along with members of the Auxiliary of St. Joseph's Health Hospital – number more than 500 men, women, and teens.

In the plainest terms possible, it would be impossible for St. Joseph's to meet its responsibility to the community without the help of the community.

"Thank you," "we're grateful," and similar sentiments do not begin to convey the depth of our appreciation to our volunteers who donate valuable time and services.

St. Joseph's Health Volunteer Services Program offers persons who are at least 14 years old, and who wish to donate their time and actively engage in community services, an opportunity to provide support to St. Joseph's mission. The Volunteer Services Program offers them the chance to make a lasting and important contribution to hospital care and to the St. Joseph's Health reputation within the community.

**Interested in joining our team? We have flexible hours, a variety of assignments, and a great group of volunteers.**

**For more information or to make an appointment, please call Mary Hagen at 315.448.5186 or email [mary.hagen@sjhsyr.org](mailto:mary.hagen@sjhsyr.org).**

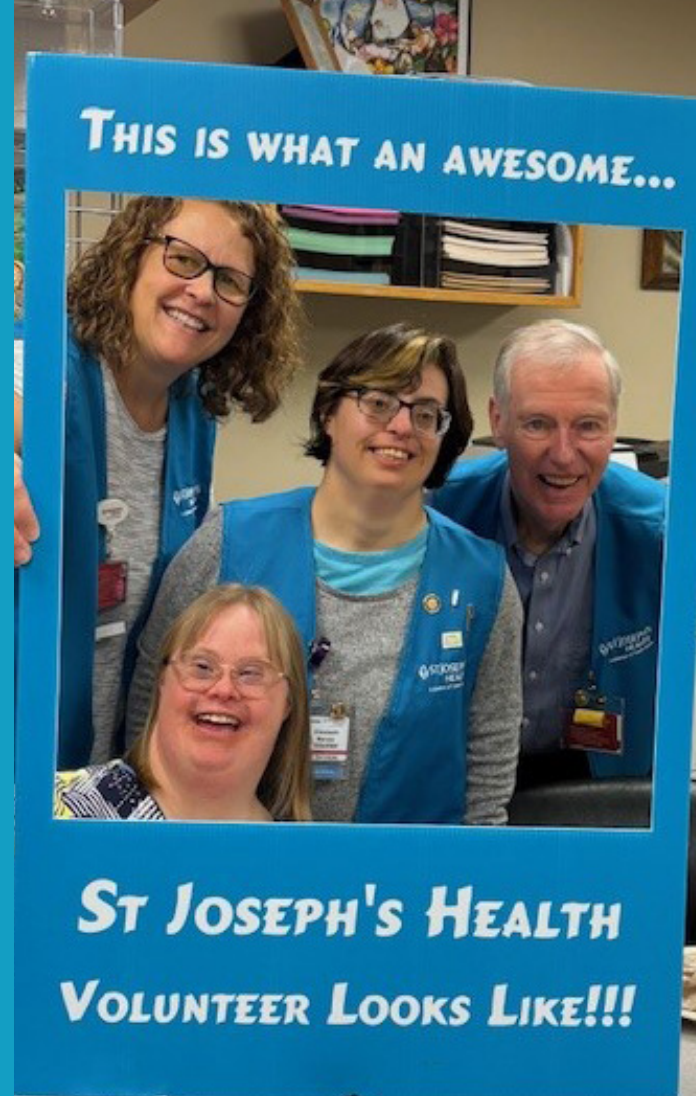
## VOLUNTEER CRAFTERS NEEDED

Are you a crafter who knits, crochets, or sews and looking to put your creative talents to use for our patients?

You may use any pattern you prefer or contact Volunteer Services at 315.448.5186 or email us at: [volunteer1@sjhsyr.org](mailto:volunteer1@sjhsyr.org) and we can send you patterns. Items needed include:

- Baby hats
- Booties
- Lap robes
- All colors
- Red, White, and Blue for patients that are Veterans
- Hats and scarves
- Prayer squares
- Eye glass cases

Items can be dropped off in Volunteer Services at St. Joseph's Health Hospital, 301 Prospect Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13203.



# Suzanne Kondra

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE

From an early age, Suzanne learned the value of kindness and service. At just 10 years old, she helped her elderly neighbors by shoveling snow and doing yard work. Later, she volunteered in her children's schools, tutoring and assisting wherever needed. But her earliest inspiration came from a deeply personal place.

"I remember my encounter with Dr. Alfred Falcone, when I was young," she recalled. "He surgically helped me with a physical issue that I had as a child. Even as a young person, I never forgot his willingness to heal, and to do so with a beautiful, generous attitude. Giving from the heart, like he did, set the stage for what I knew was an important thing to do in life."

Suzanne's connection to St. Joseph's began in the 1970s, when she was working as a representative for Johnson & Johnson. One of her responsibilities was delivering samples of LUVS diapers to new parents across Central New York. That job brought her to St. Joseph's Hospital for the first time, where she immediately noticed something different.

"It was clean, and people were welcoming," she said. "I decided back then that if I was going to volunteer, it would be at St. Joseph's Hospital."

She kept that promise. In her first years of volunteering, Suzanne could be found in the hospital every Wednesday, assisting the nurses with patients. She charted temperatures, filled water pitchers, fluffed pillows, and helped in any way she was needed. Later, she worked at the information desk, becoming a familiar and welcoming face to visitors.

"I definitely looked forward to Wednesdays," she shared.

Her service left an impression not just on the hospital community but also on her family.

"My children knew I was always ready to help anyone in any way," she said. "They learned, when I was giving hours up to volunteer at the hospital, that a person can do more than one thing at a time. We still did things together as a family and shared our time to help others. It was a great lesson for them."

Today, all her children volunteer in hospitals, churches, or schools, carrying forward the example their mother set.

Suzanne also found inspiration in the people she worked with, especially Sr. Marie Therese, Director of Volunteers. She watched closely as Sr. Therese comforted terminal patients with compassion and grace.



"She had a gentle way of comforting them through such a difficult time," Suzanne remembered. "She helped them to know not to be afraid to die. Little did I know how important those lessons would be for me when I had to do the same for my loved ones."

Outside of the hospital, Suzanne has been just as dedicated to serving her community. For 44 years, she has owned and operated a mechanical company while also holding leadership roles on numerous boards. She serves as President of the Subcontractors of Central New York, President of the PAC of CenterState, and as a board member for Nascentia Health and the NYS Workforce Investment Board. She also made history as the first female president of the Syracuse Heating & Air Conditioning Association, a role she was re-elected to four times.

Still, it is St. Joseph's – where she recently celebrated a milestone of volunteer service of 50 years - that remains closest to her heart.

"The people. I love to be with people," Suzanne said when asked what she enjoys most about volunteering. "St. Joseph's is and will always be a home to me."

“Everyone who knows me knows that volunteering is something that is in my blood and I need to be involved.”

# Statement of Operations

FOUNDATION REVENUE	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Contributions and Grants	\$1,176,765	\$885,085	\$1,065,976	\$716,346	\$1,542,380
Investment Income	800,295	1,089,141	525,826	408,844	479,119
Other Revenue	266,193	250,058	224,558	471,958	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,243,252</b>	<b>\$2,224,284</b>	<b>\$1,816,360</b>	<b>\$1,597,148</b>	<b>\$2,021,499</b>

EXPENSES	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Grants and Similar Amounts Paid	\$698,562	\$223,418	\$1,244,828	\$477,658	\$1,220,336
Salaries, Other Compensation, Employee Benefits	307,597	298,638	291,435	285,714	249,921
Other Expenses <sup>2</sup>	787,812	963,117	755,391	541,508	901,207
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,793,971</b>	<b>\$1,485,173</b>	<b>\$2,291,654</b>	<b>\$1,304,880</b>	<b>\$2,371,464</b>

<b>Revenue Less Expenses</b>	<b>\$449,282</b>	<b>\$739,111</b>	<b>\$(475,294)</b>	<b>\$292,268</b>	<b>\$(349,965)</b>
Unrealized gains (losses) on investments	\$1,180,186	\$756,340	\$848,123	\$(2,310,400)	\$3,176,343
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$1,629,468</b>	<b>\$1,495,451</b>	<b>\$372,829</b>	<b>\$(2,018,132)</b>	<b>\$2,826,378</b>

## NET ASSETS OR FUND BALANCES

Total Assets	\$20,805,929	\$21,567,403	\$18,307,859	\$18,648,199	\$19,284,095
Total Liabilities	1,282,035	3,672,976	1,908,882	2,622,051	1,239,815
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$19,523,895</b>	<b>\$17,894,427</b>	<b>\$16,398,977</b>	<b>\$16,026,148</b>	<b>\$18,044,280</b>

FN (1) Grant Revenue raised by St. Joseph's Health Foundation accounted for within the St. Joseph's Health Hospital (SJH System)

Statement of Operations and is not reported on St. Joseph's Health Foundation Financial Statements and IRS Form 990.

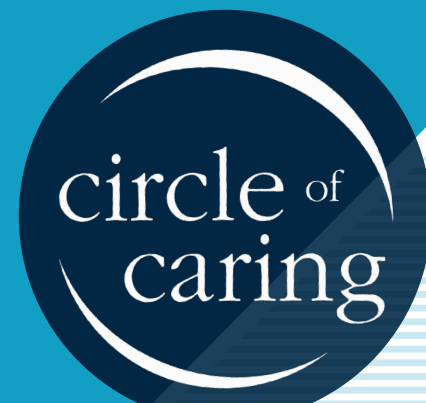
1 Grant Revenue to SJH System	\$5,695,499	\$6,718,358	\$2,544,400	\$2,602,579	\$2,667,455
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FN (2) Other Expenses include fundraising expenses. See below for fundraising expenses.

2 Fundraising Expenses	\$692,019	\$881,802	\$670,143	\$472,582	\$825,484
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# Circle of Caring

A MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM FOR SUPPORTERS OF ST. JOSEPH'S HEALTH



The Circle of Caring is a membership program that enables St. Joseph's Health to maintain its commitment to superior healthcare throughout the Central New York community.

To become a Circle of Caring member, donors make an annual gift of \$1,000 or more to St. Joseph's Health Foundation. Through this philanthropic support, funding provided by Circle of Caring members, helps ensure compassionate care for every patient, every day.

To help further our mission and values, the Circle of Caring allows St. Joseph's to provide enhanced patient comfort and care, and to keep our dedicated, compassionate staff at the forefront of the newest developments in technology and treatment.

Membership in the Circle of Caring offers several benefits, including invitations to both the St. Joseph's Day Appreciation Breakfast and Circle of Caring Donor Appreciation Dinner, as well as complimentary garage parking, and discounts in the hospital cafeteria and gift shop.

For more information, please contact the Foundation at [foundation@sjhsyr.org](mailto:foundation@sjhsyr.org) or scan the QR code.



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# St. Joseph's College of Nursing Highlights

St. Joseph's College of Nursing's mission is to educate and inspire students to become compassionate healers who demonstrate integrity, innovation, caring, and excellence while embracing the principles of social justice. In 2025, our mission is more critical than ever. Central New York is facing one of the most severe nursing shortages in the state and nation. The New York State Department of Labor has concluded that our region needs 716 new registered nurses per year to meet workforce demand. However, collectively, all colleges in Central New York are only graduating 405 new nurses annually. Of these schools, St. Joseph's College of Nursing is the largest contributor and is actively planning for growth to address this critical need in our health system and community.

To meet the region's workforce needs, the College is expanding enrollment across all program pathways – with weekday, evening/ weekend, and dual-degree options providing flexible routes for students from diverse backgrounds including working adults, parents, recent high school graduates, and those seeking second careers. Enrollment has grown steadily, supported by initiatives such as the Caring Gene® Career Pathways Program, which removes financial barriers for students who might otherwise be excluded from nursing education. These strategies have already shown impact: enrollment at the College increased from 320 to 350 in 2025, and continued expansion is planned over the next five years.

Behind this growth is a strategic approach – modernizing admissions processes under new leadership, implementing a customer relationship management system to strengthen outreach, and optimizing pathways that allow students to work as patient care technicians while preparing to transition into nursing roles. Each initiative is designed not only to increase numbers but to ensure that every student admitted has a clear, supported path to a successful career in St. Joseph's Hospital Health System.

Student success is central to the mission of St. Joseph's College of Nursing; its commitment to success begins as soon as students are admitted, through a recently redesigned orientation process, and continues to be nurtured from the first day of class through graduation and beyond. Retention rates remain exceptionally high

compared to peer institutions, resulting in graduation rates of 80% or higher. However, the College's commitment to student success doesn't stop at graduation. In 2024, St. Joseph's NCLEX pass rates were 94%. Additionally, while many nursing programs report first-year attrition rates as high as 50%, ninety percent of St. Joseph's College of Nursing graduates remain in their initial registered nurse roles after one year.

Sustaining this level of excellence while expanding enrollment requires intentional investment in the people and spaces that make learning possible. Faculty and staff engagement, recruitment, and retention is a strategic priority, supported through shared governance improvements, rank and promotion clarity, and professional development opportunities. These efforts ensure that St. Joseph's educators and higher education experts remain energized, innovative, and aligned with best practices in nursing education.

Physical space is equally critical. The College's building, constructed in 1965, requires modernization to support enrollment growth and advanced instructional delivery. This year, the College closed its residence hall following decades of declining occupancy due to a demographic shift toward non-traditional students, who are more likely to be older, have existing families, and work while attending school. Traditional on-campus housing models are often incompatible with their needs. As a result, the College will repurpose this space to enhance teaching and learning through small group learning spaces for clinical pre- and post-conferences, private testing and study spaces, and offices for an expanding faculty.

At the same time, the College is internalizing delivery of arts and sciences courses, reducing reliance on external institutions and improving curricular integration. This initiative strengthens academic continuity, enhances affordability, and recaptures tuition revenue, key steps toward long-term sustainability. St. Joseph's will also be launching courses in Anatomy and Physiology and Microbiology in the Spring of 2026, with courses intentionally designed to prepare students for the rigors of nursing education, emphasizing deep understanding of concepts they will need to apply in nursing

courses and clinical rotations.

The College's commitment to excellence is reinforced through systematic evaluation and accreditation. In the Fall of 2025 and 2026, back-to-back site visits will occur for routine re-accreditation from our regional and nursing accreditors. The College of Nursing team views these processes not only as compliance measures but as catalysts for innovation and improvement that advance its mission. Findings from these reviews will inform planning, resource allocation, and curricular refinement, ensuring that every decision advances the College's mission and strengthens outcomes for students and the communities they serve.

Lastly, the College of Nursing's 125th Anniversary campaign to support current and prospective nursing students with partial and full tuition scholarships was successfully concluded by raising over \$1.6 million. This initial campaign goal was surpassed by more than \$400,000.

This type of support helps meet the financial needs of students, making nursing education more available and affordable – which is crucial with the nationwide nursing shortage. The support of College donors and grantors truly makes a difference. Each gift the College of Nursing receives, no matter the size, will impact and enhance the learning experience of St. Joseph's students from one of the most respected, competitive, and dynamic nursing programs in the region. Thank you for making this possible!

## Muhammed F. Aljerari STUDENT PROFILE



Growing up in Binghamton, Muhammed F. Aljerari always had a passion for science, biology and education. He became familiar with St. Joseph's Health when his family utilized its healthcare services. So, when the time came for him to think about where his future might lead, St. Joseph's College of Nursing felt like a natural fit.

"The faculty have an excellent reputation and are passionate about teaching students," he said.

Muhammed is currently enrolled in the Dual Degree Program between St. Joseph's College of Nursing and Le Moyne College. Over the course of four years of schooling – taking classes at both institutions, with the option of sitting for the NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) to become a Registered Nurse at the end of his third year – he will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

His studies are supported by the Sister Mary Sheila Daly Scholarship, given annually by the Alumni Association in memory of Sister Mary Sheila Day, who served as school director from 1956 through 1974. Thankful to everyone who helped him earn this scholarship, Muhammed shared just how impactful the support is.

"I am in charge of funding my education," he explained. "Between my current employment, time volunteering at my Fire Department, and participating in research, outside of class I am quite limited in ways to fund my education."

With a focus on research, particularly diving into that of Infectious disease, Social Determinants of Health, and Health Systems, Muhammed has collaborated with Le Moyne faculty and researchers from other institutions as a main author on some projects. He also has pending research in the Journal of Emergency Nursing and is currently working on a project with Le Moyne faculty, with the goal of submitting it to the Journal of Nursing Education.

After his time in undergraduate studies at St. Joseph's College of Nursing and Le Moyne College, Muhammed plans to continue his education, with the eventual goal of pursuing a PhD in nursing and teaching future undergraduate students.

In the meantime, he balances achieving competency with a heavy volume of content of clinical skills, lecture content and Le Moyne courses. To stay healthy himself, he makes time for lifting weights, staying physically active and running.

It was during one of those runs two years ago that Muhammed met the chief of his local fire department. The chief told Muhammed that he'd seen him jogging around the neighborhood before and asked if Muhammed would be interested in firefighting.

"Firefighting means a service to the local community, helping others, selflessness, and altruistic courage," he said.

He added that firefighting has made him more passionate about healthcare and caring for others – one of his overall driving motivations.

"I want to be someone who is making an impact in society and making a difference every day," Muhammed said.

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# Auxiliary of St. Joseph's Health Hospital



The Auxiliary has begun their 157th year of service to St. Joseph's Health. The past year has been fruitful as indicated by the activities highlighted below, along with their impact.

In July 2024, Auxiliary members filled 850 backpacks for students in Central New York who visited St. Joseph's Primary Care Centers to receive school physical examinations and inoculations. Each student received a backpack filled with school supplies.

In October 2024, the Auxiliary hosted St. Joseph's Annual Volunteer luncheon, honoring and paying for the meals of 107 volunteers who attended. This event was the perfect opportunity to say "thank you" to individuals who generously give of their time and talent for St. Joseph's Hospital and its various campuses.

In November 2024, the Auxiliary's Lighting the Way event raised \$28,000 to support the purchase of the Integrated Communication System now in use at the Hospital. With the goal of offering reassurance to patients and their families, this system allows patients in the Emergency Department communicate readily with a nurse liaison/navigator. Also in November, at the Auxiliary's Holiday Shoppes event, baskets donated by Auxiliary Board members were raffled, netting \$1,500. Proceeds from this initiative supported two important causes: the Colleague Food Pantry and the Cecil Ianno Memorial Fund. A \$750 donation helped fill pantry shelves and feed St. Joseph's colleagues in need of food to take home to their families. The remaining \$750 helped the Auxiliary buy needed underclothes, socks, tops, and bottoms which were given to dozens of Emergency Department (ED) patients in need - allowing patients to leave the hospital feeling warm, dry, and feeling cared about.

The Auxiliary's Holiday Luncheon, held in December 2024, raised funds through a centerpiece raffle. Proceeds were used to support the Music and Memory Program at the Hospital. This program provides personalized music playlists for patients with dementia and other cognitive impairments, because familiar music has been found to trigger memories and improve mood and quality of life.

In March 2025, the Auxiliary Shamrock Sale raised \$725 that was used to purchase items for Emergency Department patients. The Auxiliary also donated 30 blankets for patients and visitors in the waiting room. The following month - April - the Auxiliary sponsored

an Egg-stravaganza where 50 hand-painted eggs were sold for \$5 each. As a result, \$250 was raised to purchase items needed by refugee patients served by St. Joseph's Primary Care Centers.

Recognized in May 2025 for more than 150 years of dedicated service to the Hospital, the Auxiliary received an inaugural Lifetime Achievement "Star Award" at St. Joseph's Annual Gala Dinner Dance, held at the Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona, NY. Humbled by the recognition, Auxiliary members share that they, "continue to stand tall and pray they continue to have the courage - to be brave, remain creative, and stay strong for decades to come - while organizing new fund-raising events that benefit hospital initiatives, all in the name of Saint Marianne Cope." This is the work that defines the Auxiliary of St. Joseph's Health Hospital.

Finally, in June 2025, at the Auxiliary's Annual Meeting and Luncheon, the organization's history was highlighted. An Auxilian who has dedicated 50 years to this institution was honored and scholarships were presented to two students at St. Joseph's College of Nursing. At the same event, \$190,000 was gifted to St. Joseph's Health Hospital.

Each season of service reaffirms the Auxiliary's enduring commitment to St. Joseph's mission, which serves as their guiding light, and they remain steadfast in caring for others with heart, hope and purpose.



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The St. Joseph's Health Foundation, and more importantly our patients, colleagues and students rely on the generosity from our greater St. Joseph's Health family who remain committed to our incredible health system. Thank you for all that you do in making these opportunities possible!

Sincerely,



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