



GIVING Hope

Miracles happen because of you

Brick by Brick

HSHS St. Joseph's Healing Garden Helps Families Grieve and Grow

Dealing with anxiety, stress or even the loss of a loved one can be hard. However, the Healing Garden at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital is designed to give patients, families, staff, and physicians a space to reflect, relax and reduce those thoughts/feelings.

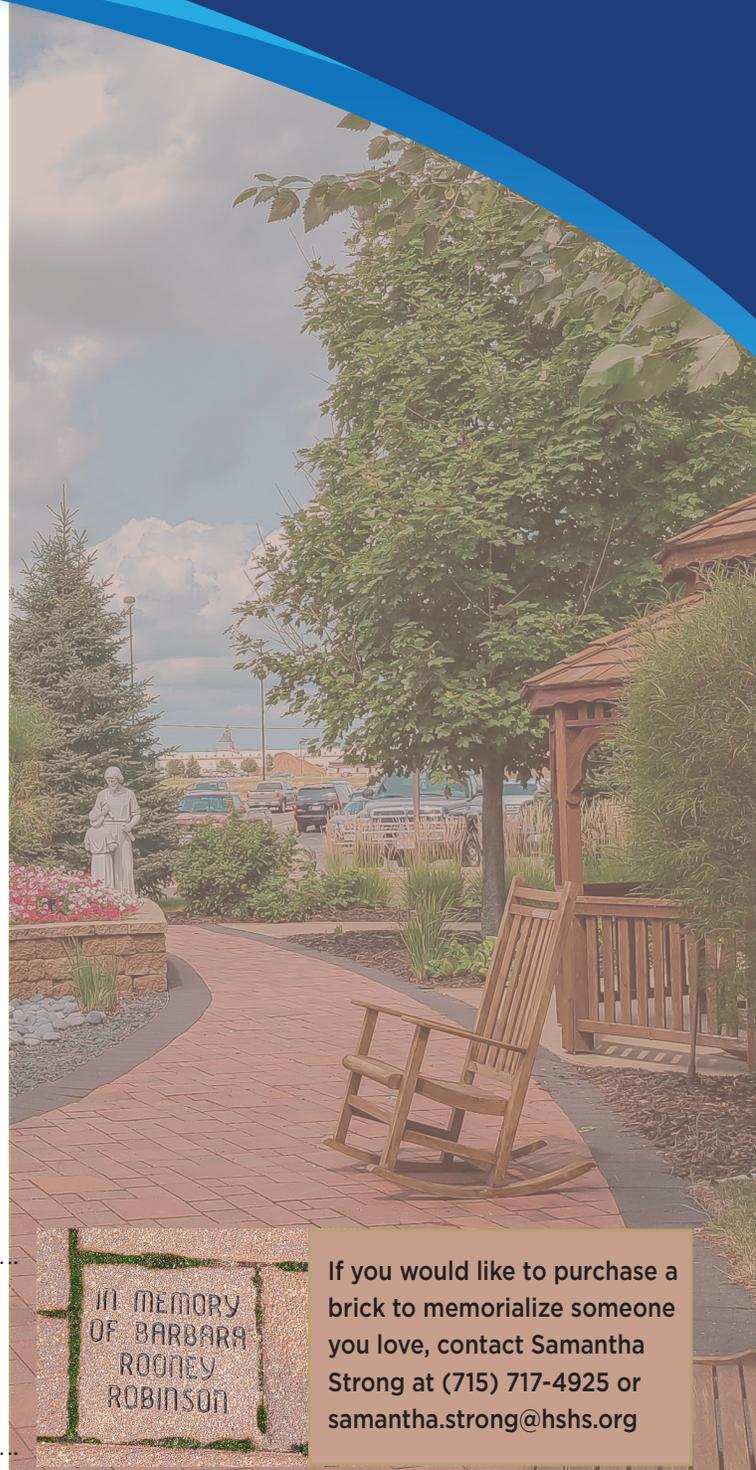
The garden, located outside the main entrance of the hospital, contains a variety of plants, statues, benches and walking paths featuring memorial bricks. For patients, the garden reduces anxiety and creates a sense of well-being. Anxious family members use the garden as a quiet space to distract themselves and allow for reflection and prayer. The garden also provides solace for staff and physicians to take a moment and step away from a stressful situation.

The comfort found in the healing garden was helpful for long-time volunteer Marlene Rooney, as she dealt with losses in her life. Marlene began volunteering at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in the 1980's assisting with mail and inventory services and she was present when the healing garden was created.

Marlene purchased her first memorial brick after the passing of her children's babysitter. "I think purchasing that first brick helped me remember the impact she had on my life," said Marlene. It wouldn't be the last time she purchased a brick to remember a loved one near and dear to her heart.

In 2016, Marlene lost her daughter, Barbara, to a stroke and in 2020, Valerie, another one of her children, passed away. She decided to memorialize her daughters in a familiar and helpful way - by purchasing a brick in the HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Healing Garden.

"My daughter's bricks were placed right next to a bench in the garden," stated Marlene. "I can sit down, remember the good times we had and say a prayer."



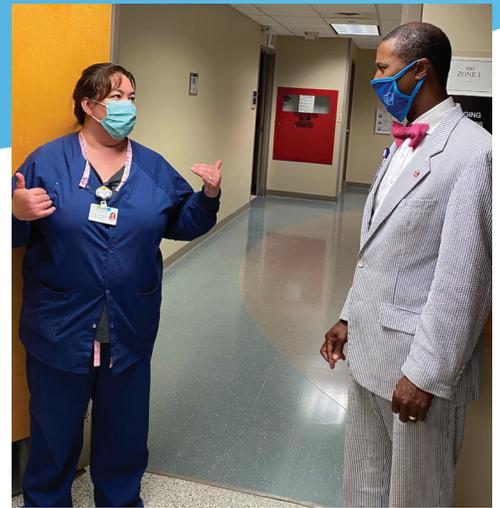
If you would like to purchase a brick to memorialize someone you love, contact Samantha Strong at (715) 717-4925 or samantha.strong@hshs.org

Leading with Catholic Values

Damond Boatwright has a mission as new HSHS President/CEO

In June 2021, Damond Boatwright was welcomed as the new Hospital Sisters Health System president and CEO, and wasted no time getting to know the region. Damond is a bright, talented and innovative leader with over 25 years of experience in the health care industry. His passion for working in Catholic health care is profoundly evident and we are so happy to have him lead HSHS moving forward.

On July 8, he visited HSHS Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's Hospitals and L.E. Phillips-Libertas Treatment Center. It was with genuine admiration that he thanked colleagues for their dedication to the HSHS mission established so long ago by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis. He spent time in hallways and conference rooms listening to colleagues share stories of the family atmosphere within the hospital walls. He was also very open to hearing about current challenges in the Chippewa Valley's health care industry. "I need to know what colleagues in Wisconsin are facing, because it's a very different healthcare landscape in Illinois where other HSHS hospitals are located," he said. "If I don't know the challenges, I can't guide our HSHS team in addressing them."



Damond said multiple times that the HSHS hospitals in western Wisconsin are providing a vital service to everyone who comes through our doors. "Our small, rural communities need care close to home and HSHS is filling that need with exceptional staff, advanced technology and outstanding individualized care."

Of L.E. Phillips-Libertas Treatment Center, Damond said it's a vital "gem" in the community.

"We can always do more, and I'm committed to helping HSHS leaders in Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls maximize resources to improve the lives of those struggling with addictions."

JustGiving™

Start an online fundraiser with Just Giving and inspire others to join you in supporting HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital. It is so easy! Whether you want to honor a loved one or celebrate a major milestone, like your birthday, wedding or special event - there are endless opportunities to share your passion with your friends and family.

Creating an online fundraiser is an **EASY and EFFECTIVE** way for you to make a difference in the lives of patients and families being cared for at YOUR hospital.

This is another opportunity to give back to a program or service that means the most to you! To create your fundraiser for HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital, visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/sjc>

Need help? Contact Shane.Starr@hshs.org