



ON

MISSION



SISTERS of CHARITY
FOUNDATION
OF CANTON

2020 ANNUAL REPORT





A Letter From Our Leadership

Dear Friends,

None of us have had an easy year, but for some it's been especially hard. Too many of our friends and neighbors are ill, hungry, unemployed, or in danger of losing their homes. Many are working long hours battling a virus the likes of which we have never experienced.

And some are unexpectedly grieving.

In the midst of this crisis, we realized, once again, how blessed we are to live in Stark County. Our community partners stepped up to provide medical services, food, shelter, respite, and other essential services. Foundations, civic and community leaders, United Way, and others who were able to help came together quickly and effectively to pool resources. The job is not done, but indeed, we are blessed.

In this stressful and chaotic time, it would have been easy to lose focus on longer-term challenges, if not for the Foundation's mission, set in place nearly a quarter century ago by our founders, the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. Our Board and Staff are resolute in addressing today's challenges while remaining focused on systemic change to improve the quality of life of the poor and underserved so they can live to their fullest potential.

We will continue to enhance community connections, serve as a community change agent to advocate for the poor, and promote innovative strategies to impact the root causes of poverty. This annual report outlines just how we have engaged in this work over the past year.

Thank you ... to our friends and neighbors for your perseverance through this difficult year and to our community partners for your dedication to a stronger Stark County. We are committed to working together to advance this mission. ✨

With Gratitude,

Elaine Russell Reolfi
Board Chair

Joni T. Close
President

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Mission



JRC Creating Community Through Relationships

JRC's vision is to inspire and empower children, seniors, and families to achieve their fullest potential every day. But that's not just some empty slogan. Spend any time at all with Executive Director Tom Thompson, and you'll quickly come to understand just how fully he lives that vision.

For many years, JRC has provided services for young children and seniors. But when demand outpaced available space, the organization sought to expand. JRC is now in the home stretch of a renovation and expansion project, having raised more than 94% of the \$6.5 million needed. Much of that funding was contributed by local foundations. The new space, formerly the Meyers Lake Ballroom, is expected to be operational by spring 2021.

A second high-quality Learning Center will accommodate 90 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers daily in eight classrooms, a library, a gym, and two playgrounds. The expanded Adult Day Center will accommodate 60 seniors daily, thereby doubling its capacity. And the children and seniors alike will benefit from the new state-of-the-art kitchen and dining area serving up 72,000 healthy meals annually, plus daily snacks.

The new wellness area's private exam rooms will allow seniors to have medical, dental, and vision appointments right at JRC. One private room will be technologically equipped for telemedicine appointments, so family members will no longer need to accompany seniors to

off-site appointments—and fragile seniors will be able to stay in one place during the day. With the *Canton Repository* projecting that by 2026, nearly a quarter of Stark County's population will be 65 or older, the need has never been greater.¹

JRC's intergenerational program helps the children progress developmentally while keeping the seniors actively engaged in activities that inhibit their decline.

The expansion will also grow JRC's most innovative effort, a program called *Intergenerational Connections*. The children and seniors engage in activities together, including zoo trips, watercolor painting hours, music classes, cooking classes, and storytelling sessions. The program used to happen weekly, with the children taking Friday field trips to visit the seniors. With the children and seniors under the same roof, the program will happen daily, once the need for pandemic restrictions has passed. Each week, children from the original learning center location will join in as well.

The intergenerational program helps the children progress developmentally while keeping the seniors actively engaged in activities that inhibit their decline. The program also fosters relationships; the children and seniors work together, help each other, and learn from one another. The children call the seniors *Grandma* and *Grandpa*—names the seniors gladly answer to.

That sense of community translates far beyond the intergenerational program. For instance, the seniors aren't "clients"—they're members, who belong. And of course, JRC's community includes all the family members, of both the children and the seniors, who can leave JRC and head to work for the day, confident that their loved ones are in a safe, engaging environment. ✨

¹ cantonrep.com/news/20191103/jrc-readies-for-starks-aging-population

Justice

DVPI Offering Hope, and Pursuing Possibility

When Paula Mastroianni looks at the challenges ahead, one word comes to mind: possibility.

Paula, who became the CEO of the Domestic Violence Project, Inc. (DVPI) in mid-October, knows there's a lot of work to do. This has been a particularly brutal year: DVPI faced multiple funding cuts, requiring layoffs and reductions in services; the remaining staff members are stretched thin; the organization was operating without a permanent leader for many months; and domestic violence is increasing as the pandemic exacerbates life stressors for already vulnerable families. And yet, Paula sees an organization poised to do great things.

No one could argue that DVPI's work is anything but essential. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men nationwide have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner.¹ Here in Stark County, the Ohio Attorney General's office indicates that 1,759 incidents of domestic violence were reported to police in 2018.²

DVPI shelters survivors, helps them transition into new lives removed from abuse, and serves as a guide and support for those involved with the court system. DVPI staff also stay in touch, to make sure clients have the support and resources they need to continue moving toward safer lives.

Paula has hit the ground running:

She's focusing on securing additional funding, which is no easy feat right now. In-person fundraising events are no longer a possibility; in 2021, she plans to stage a digital event instead. Another major goal is to make giving as easy as possible by starting a recurring gift program.

She wants to unify the staff and help them know they are supported in a common goal of helping clients. She's taking the time to do a "listening tour," to make sure she engages staff members and really hears their concerns. She's working hard to foster an environment of respect and support for her staff, whose jobs are difficult even in

About 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men nationwide have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner.

the best of times. They're also significantly underpaid compared to their counterparts at similar organizations, which makes hiring a challenge. Paula wants to pay them more, and eventually position the organization as a local employer of choice for those seeking social services careers.

She's also committed to telling DVPI's story. Because it's a small, local organization without a marketing budget, DVPI's voice can sometimes get lost. Many people in abusive situations are unaware DVPI can help them. Paula plans to use her marketing and communications experience to garner media exposure, so both those experiencing domestic violence and those who support the work will keep the organization top of mind.

And that will help DVPI—and those it serves—to enter a whole new world of possibility. ✨

The Six Kinds of Abuse:

- Digital Abuse** stalks you online
- Financial Abuse** prevents your independence
- Mental Abuse** threatens your life
- Physical Abuse** makes you feel unhinged
- Sexual Violence** unwanted sexual comments or advances
- Verbal Abuse** makes you feel small

¹ [cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_executive_summary-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_executive_summary-a.pdf)

² ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Files/Reports/Domestic-Violence-Reports/Domestic-Violence-Reports-2018/2018-Domestic-Violence-Incidents-by-County-and-Age





Potential

StarkMHAR Recasting the Safety Net

Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery (StarkMHAR) wants our community's families to know: whether your child is learning in a school building or remotely from home, you and your children are never alone.

StarkMHAR-affiliated agencies provide school-based mental health services. Before the pandemic, the agencies had a well-established network of practitioners who were working daily in school buildings throughout the county—helping students talk through their problems and connecting families with community mental health services.

Throughout the pandemic, those school-based providers have proven a very important point: schools are the people, not the buildings.

When children began learning from home, the school-based providers knew they had to stay in contact. Lilly Davenport is StarkMHAR's Consultation, Education, and Prevention Coordinator. She's proud that every step of the way, the school-based providers managed to ensure families had the support they needed to transition to remote learning with their mental health needs addressed.

That required a creative re-envisioning of the ways services could be provided, and an understanding that as uncertain times complicated lives, providers would need to be tenacious to reach those in greatest need of support.

The schools distributed food to families weekly, along with information on mental health resources for families. The providers also called homes to check in with remote learners. Family Support Specialists from the Stark County

Educational Service Center reached out as well. These were wellness checks, not simply mental health checks: the callers also asked whether families needed food, community resources, or help with rent.

As the pandemic hit, those school-based providers proved a very important point: schools are the people, not the buildings.

Families were connected with a spectrum of resources and services to help them through.

Stark County also has a Mobile Response Team that addresses crisis situations. After receiving a call, the team typically arrives at the home of a troubled child or teen in under 20 minutes, to defuse the situation and guide the family in a culturally competent, trauma-informed manner.

Michelle Allison-Smith is Coleman Crisis Services' Chief Officer. She states that prior to COVID, the Mobile Response Team received 30-35 calls a month, with most requests coming from the schools. During the pandemic, the number of calls coming directly from families more than tripled.

The uncertainty will continue for some time, affecting children and adults alike. Those on the front lines hope families will reach out. Help is just a call or click away. ✨

Some signs of mental health issues in children:

- Persistent sadness, worries, or fears
- Hurting oneself or talking about hurting oneself
- Talking about death or suicide
- Outbursts or extreme irritability
- Drastic changes in mood, behavior, or personality
- Changes in eating habits
- Difficulty sleeping
- Frequent headaches or stomachaches
- Difficulty concentrating
- Changes in academic performance

If you need free, confidential information and referrals, Stark Help Central, Stark County's resource navigation website, is just a call or click away:

starkhelpcentral.com
(330) 455-6644

Impact



Bringing Solutions to the Table

As pandemic lockdown began, Stark County residents faced long lines and empty grocery store shelves. However, with businesses closed and jobs lost, many faced something even more daunting: unexpectedly having to rely on food pantries and hot meal sites. Even some pantry volunteers found themselves reaching out for food assistance.

Local food programs quickly recognized the need to adjust to meet the significantly increased demand while adopting the CDC guidelines to remain safe. Offering more frequent pick-up options and providing to-go meals became the norm. These critical changes greatly increased the cost of food and supplies.

Local food programs quickly recognized the need to adjust to meet the significantly increased demand while adopting the CDC guidelines to remain safe.

In mid-March, local funders had banded together to jointly meet escalating community needs. (That collaborative response is discussed in the *Pandemic Grantmaking* article on page 12.) As requests quickly poured in, it became clear that food would be a persistent need. Four food aid organizations requested support in the first week alone. Knowing that there are 108 food programs in Stark County, Foundation staff expected many more requests.

Separate applications from each organization would have quickly overwhelmed the grantmaking process. Because all 108 Stark County food programs are partners of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, staff members from the Sisters of Charity and Stark Community foundations recommended that the collaborating funders address the growing problem by leveraging the Foodbank's leadership and capacity.

Together, four funders awarded \$87,500 to the Foodbank to support Stark County pantries and hot meal sites at 50% above their normal need, based on the assumption that they would require at least that much funding to meet the need for 2.5 months. The Timken Foundation followed that up by providing a separate grant of \$100,000 to expand food support.

In the spring, demand for food doubled, then slowly decreased through summer and early fall. As winter approached, it began rising yet again as COVID cases increased and unemployment benefits decreased for many residents. Demand through the winter is expected to meet or exceed the original surge.

With a broad base of support from funders and the community, and with the Foodbank as a strong central partner, we are confident that Stark County's food programs can continue to respond in creative and committed ways. ✨



Game Changer: The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank gave the Louisville City School District 1,580 bags of food for district families.

Pandemic Grantmaking Our Mission at Work

Connections

Just about everything in our day-to-day operations changed as the pandemic emerged. But the one thing that never changed was our focus on mission.

In mid-March, as COVID-19 began gaining a foothold, Foundation staff examined work habits, processes, and partnerships to determine how to respond in an effective, mission-driven way.

Recognizing a clear opportunity for collaboration, our staff worked with Stark Community Foundation on a coordinated funding response. We offered to serve as the first point of contact, triage all inquiries, and process all applications through our online grantmaking system. We had already drafted a streamlined, pandemic-focused

Over the span of just 9 weeks, our 14 collaborative funders awarded \$1,677,749 to 33 organizations.

application and configured it for virtual use. The Sisters of Charity and Stark Community foundations jointly reached out to other community funders to garner interest.

Within days, all staff were working remotely, the new application went live, and our first pandemic-focused electronic newsletter was sent to inform the community about the collaborative funding opportunity. That was the easy part.

The response was overwhelming. We received over a hundred emails and calls from organizations wanting to learn more. If an inquiry fit the collaborative's priorities, the organization was instructed on how to apply. As applications were submitted, staff members reviewed, asked questions, and summarized for the collaborative partners, who met virtually to make funding commitments.

The process was similar to our normal grantmaking procedures. This time, though, everything happened over a matter of days, instead of weeks or months. And everything happened electronically. No more on-site visits to meet with prospective grantees. No more in-person proposal review meetings. Staff converted all communications and document signing to electronic formats, and grantees received checks safely—and more quickly than ever before.

We've learned a lot about how flexible, resilient, and collaborative we all can be in the face of the unexpected. That flexibility will remain with us: we are committed to retaining many of our streamlined processes after the danger of the pandemic has passed.

We hope our adaptability reflects our drive to serve our hardworking, committed nonprofit partners, whose missions help us achieve our own. ✨

Collaborative Funders

Austin-Bailey Health and Wellness Foundation

City of Canton

Deuble Foundation

Gessner Family Foundation

Health Foundation of Greater Massillon

Hoover Foundation

Massillon Rotary Foundation

North Canton Medical Foundation

Paul and Carol David Foundation

PNC Foundation

Timken Foundation

Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton

Stark Community Foundation

William and Minnette Goldsmith Foundation



Change



**2020 Grant
Recipients**

Foundation-Led Initiatives: \$1,376,650

Early Childhood

Canton City School District	\$28,593
To purchase books for the early learning program	
Early Childhood Education Alliance	\$90,000
To support SPARK in Alliance, over three years	
Early Childhood Resource Center	\$250,000
To support SPARK in Canton and Minerva	
Early Childhood Resource Center	\$25,000
To support summer remediation programming for students in kindergarten through third grade	
Groundwork Ohio	\$15,000
To support public opinion polling, a supply-and-demand study of Ohio's child care services, and development of a report on the economic impact of investing in high-quality early childhood services	
Massillon Family YMCA	\$10,000
To support pandemic child care at the Massillon and Navarre sites	
YMCA of Central Stark County	\$20,000
To support pandemic child care at the North Canton site	
Other	\$69,603
Early childhood program-related expenses	

TOTAL: \$508,196

Homelessness

Alliance Family Health Center	\$2,500
To support the provision of on-site medical services at all local shelters	
Association for Better Community Development	\$2,500
To support medical transportation for individuals living in a shelter or housing project	
Domestic Violence Project, Inc.	\$3,250
To purchase food, child care supplies, cleaning supplies, and shelter utility costs	
ICAN Housing	\$13,500
To support unpaid tenant rent, housing security, and remote work needs	
Refuge of Hope	\$5,000
To support the purchase and installation of a thermal camera	
Stark Housing Network	\$288,040
To purchase food, child care supplies, cleaning supplies, and shelter utility costs	
Stark Housing Network	\$16,500
To support cleaning services for shelters	
Stark Housing Network	\$5,000
To support cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment for shelters	
YWCA of Canton	\$3,000
To support the unpaid rent of tenants in the rapid rehousing program	
Other	\$57,283
Homelessness program-related expenses	

TOTAL: \$396,573



Mental Health

Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health	\$35,000
To purchase cleaning supplies, services and cell phones, and to support operations	
Coleman Professional Services	\$2,500
To purchase cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment, laptops, and client phone cards	
CommQuest Services	\$15,660
To purchase cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment, and to support enclosing the receptionist area at the Cleveland Avenue location and deep cleaning the Alliance outpatient office	
Stark County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery	\$350,000
For capacity building and support of Stark County's behavioral health organizations, over three years	
Other	\$68,721
Mental health program-related expenses	

TOTAL: \$471,881

Strategic Collaborations: \$362,800

Infant Mortality

Canton City Public Health	\$158,800
To support the THRIVE infant mortality project evaluation, over two years	
Canton City Public Health	\$4,000
To purchase care packages containing cleaning, disinfection, and personal hygiene supplies for individuals with chronic disease	

TOTAL: \$162,800

Infrastructure and Capacity Building

Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio	\$200,000
To support main campus operating costs	

TOTAL: \$200,000

Total Grants:

\$2,844,694

Responsive Efforts: \$1,105,244

Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank	\$27,500
To support Stark County food pantries	
American Red Cross Heartland, Stark and Muskingum Lakes	\$10,000
To support the cost of COVID-19 antibody tests for donors	
ArtsinStark	\$25,000
To support the <i>SmArts</i> program in Canton, Alliance, and Massillon public schools and Stark County parochial schools	
Association for Better Community Development	\$4,000
To purchase personal protective equipment, disinfecting supplies, and vehicle cleaning services	
Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Ohio	\$15,000
To support the school-based mentoring program	
Canton Calvary Mission	\$2,500
To support outreach programs	
Christian Children's Home of Ohio	\$10,000
To support the <i>Thrive</i> art therapy program	
Domestic Violence Project, Inc.	\$35,000
To support operations from June 1 through October 31, 2020	
Domestic Violence Project, Inc.	\$35,000
To support budget shortfalls amid funding cuts and decreased fundraising revenue	
EN-RICH-MENT	\$30,000
To support the hiring of an assistant director to help with daily operations, over two years	
Faith In Action of Western Stark County	\$2,500
To support rent, payroll expenses, and gas cards for volunteers	
Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio	\$40,000
To support the parenting program	

Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio	\$75,000
To support the emergency assistance program	
Greater Stark County Urban League	\$2,000
For the purchase, packaging, and distribution of household cleaning and hygiene products for high-poverty households in Canton, Alliance, and Massillon	
JRC	\$6,250
To support the adult day services program	
JRC	\$200,000
A matching grant to support the Meyers Lake capital project	
OhioGuidestone	\$25,000
To support renovation of the River Haven Residential Facility for Women	
Pathway Caring for Children	\$35,000
To support operations and program expenses for foster parents	
Pathway Caring for Children	\$50,000
To support the cost of an IT consultant for database migration and specialized coding	
Pegasus Farm	\$50,000
To support payroll expenses, professional development, program expenses, and cleaning and prevention services	
Phoenix Rising Behavioral Healthcare and Recovery	\$40,000
To support the cost of cleaning, thermometers, and personal protective equipment	
Project Rebuild	\$3,000
To purchase remote learning technology for students	
St. Anthony/All Saints	\$36,000
To support the <i>Building Bridges</i> Hispanic ministry program, over three years	
Siffrin	\$35,000
To support operations	
Stark Community Support Network	\$6,500
To support client services, rent, utilities, and supplies	
Stark County Catholic Schools	\$11,000
To support remote learning technology	
Stark County Community Action Agency	\$2,000
To purchase household cleaning and hygiene products	

Stark County District Library	\$10,000
To support free books for young children from the Dolly Parton and Ohio Governor's <i>Imagination Library</i> program, over three years	
Stark County Hunger Task Force	\$2,000
To purchase electronic tablets with weatherproof accessories	
Stark Education Partnership	\$75,000
To support operations, over three years	
The Workshops (TWi)	\$5,000
To purchase activity kits and to support delivery costs for in-home participants	
United Way of Greater Stark County	\$20,000
To support individuals in need of emergency mortgage and rental assistance	
Vantage Aging	\$23,129
To purchase shelf-stable food for clients	
YMCA of Central Stark County	\$50,000
To support the Meyers Lake YMCA renovations	
YMCA of Central Stark County	\$75,115
To support the <i>Y on the Fly</i> program	

TOTAL: \$1,073,494

Special Projects

Alliance Health Department	\$250
To show gratitude and support for front-line health care workers	
Aultman Health Foundation/Aultman Hospital	\$1,000
To show gratitude and support for front-line health care workers	
Aunt Susie's Cancer Wellness Center for Women	\$5,000
To provide transportation to medical appointments for women undergoing cancer treatment	
Canton City Public Health	\$500
To show gratitude and support for front-line health care workers	
Greater Stark County Urban League	\$5,000
To support the <i>Moving our Community Forward</i> project that helps families in need	

Little Pink Ribbon Girl	\$2,500
For individuals with cancer who need financial assistance	
Mercy Medical Center	\$5,000
To purchase iPads that will connect patients with family members	
Sisters of Charity Health System	\$500
To support the <i>Founder's Day</i> online celebration	
Stark County Health Department	\$1,000
To show gratitude and support for front-line health care workers	
Stark County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery	\$1,000
To show gratitude and support for staff	
Thanksgiving Baskets Downtown	\$5,000
To support the Thanksgiving outreach program, over three years	

TOTAL: \$26,750

Board Honorariums

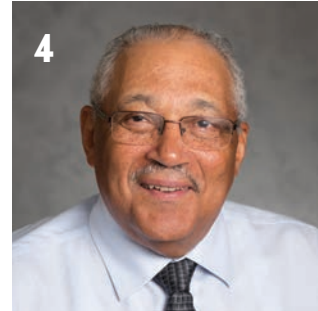
Mercy Medical Center	\$1,000
To show gratitude and support for front-line health care workers, in lieu of a holiday gift for the Foundation's Board of Directors	
Mercy Medical Center Dental Clinic	\$500
A gift on behalf of retiring director Dr. George Williams	
St. Anthony's/All Saints Parish	\$500
A gift on behalf of retiring director David Kaminski	
Stark County Hunger Task Force	\$2,500
To support the backpack program, in lieu of a holiday gift for the Foundation's Board of Directors	
YWCA of Canton	\$500
A gift on behalf of retiring director Kathy Poporad	

TOTAL: \$5,000

Board of Directors



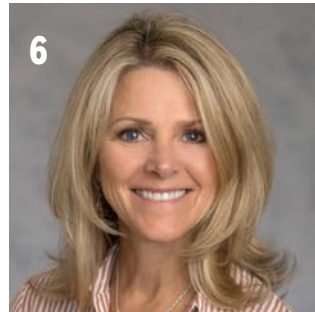
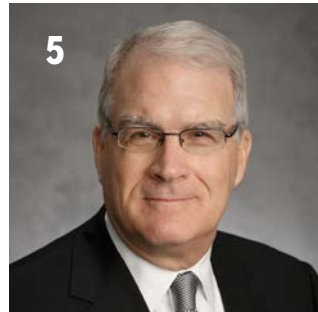
1 Elaine Russell Reolfi
Chair



2 Jeffrey Halm
Vice Chair

3 Judge Rosemarie Hall
Secretary

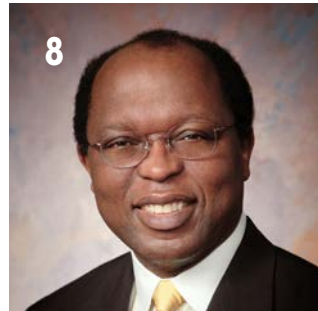
4 Ronald S. Young
Treasurer



5 Robert F. Belden

6 Debra Bentivegna

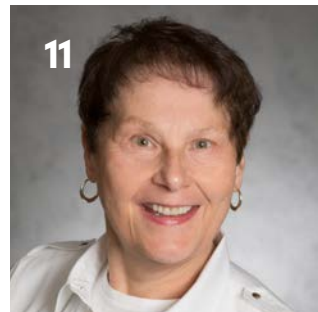
7 Joni T. Close
(ex officio)



8 Albert T. Domingo
MS, MD

9 David C. Kaminski

10 Susanna H. Krey
(ex officio)



11 Susan M. Kunkle
Ph.D.

12 Sister Jane Lab
CSA

13 James Leahy



14 Judge Sara Lioi

15 C. Todd Locke

16 Joseph R. Luckring



17 Kathleen M. Poporad

18 Joseph D. Schauer

19 George T. Williams
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Program Officer



Our Vision

To improve the quality of life of the poor and underserved so they can live to their fullest **potential**, by initiating systemic **change**, enhancing community **connections**, serving as a community change agent to advocate for the poor, and promoting innovative strategies to **impact** the root causes of poverty.

Our Mission

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton supports and furthers the **mission** and ministry of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. The principal components of their ministry are health, education, and social services. The Foundation's focus is on issues of social **justice** relating to the poor and underserved in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.



SISTERS *of* CHARITY
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A Ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System