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**Health Foundation Funds St. Ann's Community New Cardiac Rehab Program**

**Rochester, New York:** Greater Rochester Health Foundation (the Health Foundation) awarded St. Ann's Community a grant of up to \$484,000 to support the development of *HeartMatters*. This specialized cardiac rehabilitation program will treat patients recovering from congestive heart failure, heart attack, bypass surgery or other forms of heart disease.

"Heart disease is one of the leading causes of death in Monroe County and I know every one of us has had a family member or friend impacted by heart disease," says Essie Calhoun-McDavid board chair of the Health Foundation. "It touches every corner of the community and with the population aging, there is a growing number of people living with heart failure."

"St. Ann's Community has had a history of working with Transitional Care patients to ensure a safe and successful return home. We have focused on reducing our hospital readmission rate for several years. However, with this new grant, we have been able to develop an intensive educational program to assure that our physicians, nurses, therapists and other clinicians provide the most expert care to our post-acute cardiac patient," says Betty Mullin-DiProsa, President & CEO of St. Ann's Community. "This grant has helped St. Ann's Community create the body of cardiac knowledge and skill to address the needs of this community."

“This disease exacts an enormous toll on our community,” noted Diane Kane, MD, Chief Medical Officer for St. Ann’s Community. “We are pleased by this investment, especially by an organization that has such high standards for awarding its grants. We are grateful for the generosity of our partners at the Health Foundation,” continued Kane. “This program will allow us to provide care for people who are far enough along in their healing to be discharged from the hospital but are too frail to return home. We expect to care for 240 patients over the course of the grant.”

“The components of *HeartMatters* address two of our strategic areas of focus – prevention and health care delivery,” says Health Foundation President and CEO John Urban. “We view this as a strategic investment in the health of our community. Approximately 13,000 patients are discharged from Monroe County hospitals each year with a diagnosis of cardiovascular disease so that the scope of this issue is significant. In addition, St. Ann’s proposed measurable outcomes for a reduction in hospital admissions using an evidence-based training program for patients to better manage their medical condition and an interdisciplinary approach to care.”

St. Ann’s Community is one of Rochester’s largest private employers with over 1,200 employees, and provides a varied range of services and care levels designed to meet the individual needs of older adults. St. Ann’s, a non-profit that is *Caring for the Most Important People on Earth*, serves seniors with two licensed, accredited and certified skilled nursing facilities, medical and social adult day programs, independent retirement housing, transitional care, assisted living, enhanced living, specialized dementia care, geriatric outpatient primary care practice, and Hospice care (in partnership with two local Hospice Agencies) located on two campuses in the Greater Rochester area.

For more information about St. Ann’s Community please call 585-697-6000 or visit [www.stannscommunity.com](http://www.stannscommunity.com). St. Ann’s Community is located at 1500 Portland Avenue in Rochester, directly across the street from Rochester General Hospital.

The mission of Greater Rochester Health Foundation is to improve the health status of all residents of the Greater Rochester community, including people whose unique healthcare needs have not been met because of race, ethnicity, or income.

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