

Immanuel St. Joseph's Foundation

Mayo Health System

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NEWS RELEASE

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Immanuel St. Joseph's Foundation Approves Over \$200,000 in Grants

MANKATO — The volunteer board of Immanuel St. Joseph's Foundation has awarded six grants totaling \$209,850, all raised locally, to support the mission of Immanuel St. Joseph's — Mayo Health System.

The largest grant approved was for \$85,000 to upgrade equipment and facilities for patient room service. Patients experiencing "at your request" meals will enjoy improved overall presentation and service. Currently, 320 meal trays per day are served to patients on all floors, with patients able to order from a selection of meals from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

A second grant for \$81,000 will be used to enhance communication for family members of surgery patients at Immanuel St. Joseph's. The board agreed to fund SmarTrack®, an interactive tool that tracks the status and location of surgical patients from registration through discharge. By improving efficiency and communication in the operative area, family members will have access to up-to-date information throughout procedures. Last year, Immanuel St. Joseph's treated more than 7,000 surgical patients.

Funds were also allocated to a remodeling project that will improve the same day care waiting room. The remodel will give patient families a comfortable and calming place to wait for loved ones who are in surgery. The board approved \$20,000 for this grant.

Waseca's Hospice Program was approved to receive \$13,050 to continue client services in the Waseca area. This grant will provide bereavement services, community programs, patient education materials and staff education.

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A \$10,000 grant was awarded to the Family Birth Center to train staff to help and support patients who experience an early pregnancy loss, still birth or newborn death.

A final grant of \$800 will be used to purchase scrubs to replace gowns previously used for behavioral health patients.

“Our hospital is growing to become a regional medical center, and the community is supporting our growth through this Foundation,” says Patty Christensen, chair of the Foundation board. “These grants are fine examples of generosity, changing lives.”

Funds came from the generosity of individuals and businesses throughout the region, some given for specific purposes and others directed to areas of greatest need. Grant applications are evaluated by members of the Foundation's volunteer board, who help match these donated funds to the real needs of patients and members of the community. Grants are chosen based on the number of people affected as well as the benefit offered to families who live in Mankato and surrounding communities in southern Minnesota.

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