



The Diocese of Knoxville

Living our Roman Catholic faith in East Tennessee

STATEMENT ON ST. MARY'S LEGACY FOUNDATION
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St. Mary's Legacy Foundation serving East Tennessee

KNOXVILLE—The St. Mary's Legacy Foundation of East Tennessee was formed in 2011 to continue to provide support for the ministry begun by the Sisters of Mercy with the opening of St. Mary's Hospital in 1930. The foundation initially was made possible through funds provided by the sale of Mercy Health Partners to Health Management Associates.

In keeping with the mission of the Sisters of Mercy and their founder Mother Catherine McCauley, The St. Mary's Legacy Foundation of East Tennessee provides direct support for charity, health care and education through Catholic organizations serving those in need in East Tennessee.

The St. Mary's Legacy Foundation of East Tennessee was incorporated in November 2011 with a board of directors comprising a diverse group of community leaders representing charitable organizations, health professionals, business leaders, and Catholic institutions from across East Tennessee.

The St. Mary's Legacy Foundation of East Tennessee seeks to assist the needy and vulnerable of East Tennessee by engaging in general charitable undertakings and endeavors, including (but not limited to) providing and supporting health care and health care education initiatives, counseling, shelter, nourishment, parochial and secondary education, spiritual education and enrichment, and undertaking other programs to relieve suffering and distress and improve the human condition.

The Foundation aims to serve needs not just in Knoxville, but across 36 East Tennessee counties. While grants will be awarded to Catholic institutions, the services those agencies provide are not limited to serving only Catholics. In fact, as in the case of Catholic Charities of East Tennessee, as much as 95 percent of all clients served are not Catholic.

"It is an honor and a privilege to serve as a member of the St. Mary's Legacy Foundation because I get to participate in attending to the needs of the most vulnerable of East Tennessee by helping them overcome obstacles that keep them from living full, healthy and dignified lives. It brings me great joy knowing that the foundation helps our community to continue to faithfully exercise the spiritual and corporal works of mercy just as the Mercy Sisters and St. Mary's Hospital did for over 80 years," said Deacon Sean Smith, chancellor for the Diocese of Knoxville."

The St. Mary's Legacy Foundation plans to award its first grants on Dec. 1.