Hospitals Recognized for Efforts in Tissue Donation
Awarded by the American Tissue Services Foundation

Green Bay – HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center’s 2017 efforts to provide families with donation options and information have been recognized by the American Tissue Services Foundation (ATSF). Each hospital has received the ATSF Tissue Donation Recognition Award. This is the sixth award since 2010 for HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and the second award since 2014 for HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center.

According to ATSF Education and Development Manager, Jeanette Potts, HSHS St. Vincent Hospital achieved a 54 percent tissue donation rate and HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center achieved a 58 percent tissue donation rate in 2017. This means that tissue was recovered from 54 percent of eligible donors at HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and from 58 percent of eligible donors at HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center. Hospital staff received training in tissue donation practices during the year from ATSF and hold donation committee meetings at least four times a year.

Gifts of tissue—which include bone, skin, heart valves, connective tissue and veins—are used in more than one million surgeries routinely performed each year in the United States. In 2017, HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center’s tissue donor programs helped more than 3,300 recipients receive the gift of life through tissue donation. On average, one tissue donor can help 75 to 100 people.

Many more people are eligible tissue donors than they are organ donors, Potts says. Organ donation usually takes place when brain death has occurred, and transplants must be performed within a short time afterward. Tissue can be recovered within 12 to 24 hours of death and preserved for later use.

“Through their dedication and focus on increasing donation, HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center have made a tremendous difference in the lives of others,” Potts says. “Donated tissue gifts save lives, as well as increase strength, mobility and independence for many, many patients.”

American Tissue Services Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to caring for families and helping them heal from the death of their loved ones. Accredited by the American Association of Tissue Banks, ATSF provides a compassionate and knowledgeable team of education, recovery and quality systems professionals. The organization supports health care agencies, coroners, medical examiners and funeral professionals through donation education and training. ATSF also partners with other agencies dedicated to the innovative use of tissue in medical care and research.

About HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center
HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center have been delivering quality health care to Green Bay and its surrounding communities since 1888. With HSHS St. Vincent being the largest tertiary care hospital and HSHS St. Mary’s location on Green Bay’s west side, patients from Northeastern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan benefit from a
comprehensive range of services that include cancer care, women’s services, emergency and trauma care, preventive care across the lifespan, digestive health, orthopedic, cardiac care, neurosciences, rehabilitation and pediatrics. Affiliates of Hospital Sisters Health System, the hospital’s primary purpose is to continue Christ’s healing love through the delivery of competent and compassionate health care in an environment sensitive to the needs of all people. Both hospitals are accredited by the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

About Hospital Sisters Health System
Hospital Sisters Health System’s (HSHS) mission is to reveal and embody Christ’s healing love for all people through our high quality, Franciscan health care ministry. HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care to our patients and is dedicated to serving all people, especially the most vulnerable, at each of our 15 Local Systems and physician practices in Illinois (Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Greenville, Highland, Litchfield, O’Fallon, Shelbyville and Springfield) and Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Oconto Falls, Sheboygan, and two in Green Bay). HSHS is sponsored by Hospital Sisters Ministries. For more information about HSHS, visit www.hshs.org. For more information about Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, visit www.hospitalsisters.org.