# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



HOSPITAL SISTERS
Mission Outreach

Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach is a non-profit medical supply and equipment recovery organization in Springfield, Illinois, USA. Founded by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis in 2002, Mission Outreach is now an affiliate of Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS). Each year, we provide more than 110 shipments of donated medical supplies and equipment to hospitals and clinics in low-resource areas around the world, covering a population service area of 28,000,000 people.



# Letter from
## Erica Smith, Executive Director

**Our world calls. Mission Outreach answers.**

In 2025, Mission Outreach is launching its new strategic plan to lead operations for the next three years and beyond.

Building on the success of the organization for the past 23 years, our plan defines our priorities with the objective to remain sustainable and to meet the evolving needs of our international partners. Mission Outreach is proud of its history of supporting international health care partners through ethical, high-quality, and sustainable medical supply and equipment donation – and we're excited to grow services while remaining rooted in our mission and the Franciscan tradition of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis.

All of this is possible because of the people who invest their time, talent, and treasure into this mission. Our staff, volunteers, and boards of directors (present and past), who give of themselves every day to make Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach an internationally recognized organization for our quality and commitment. Our international partners, who deliver exceptional care to their patients and constantly strive to be the best they can be; our donors and supporters, who make this work possible with their financial contributions and advocacy; and finally, our Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, whose vision and unwavering dedication sustain Mission Outreach and provide the strong foundation upon which we stand.

**Thank you for being a part of the history – and future – of Mission Outreach.**

Erica Smith
Executive Director

### Mission Outreach Team

Nick Amdor, Warehouse Supervisor
Rachelle Barina, Chief Mission Officer
Luis Cueto, Warehouse Associate
Vicki Detmers, Recipient Services and Operations Manager
Joe Hardwick, Volunteer Coordinator
Ratish Kumar, Biomedical Engineer
Jay Rees, Warehouse Associate
Erica Smith, Executive Director
Micheala Szpulak, Volunteer Specialist
Kenneth Ware, CDL Driver/Warehouse Associate
David Wilcox, CDL Driver/Warehouse Associate

### Mission Outreach Board of Directors

*Officers*

Fr. James Deiters, Chair
Ann Carr, Treasurer
Pam McClelland, Secretary

*Members*

Dr. Jhaveri Bharati
Linda Dace
Geoff Nielsen
Jerry Worrick
Erica Smith

# Our Vision For the Future

## *Mission Outreach values ethics, quality, and sustainability.*

Equipping health care workers in low-resource settings with usable medical supplies and equipment is complex. Our commitment to our international partners:

- We provide **responsible donation alongside health-related capacity sharing services** to ensure the donations made are usable, repairable, and sustainable.
- We invest in our partnering hospitals and health systems and develop **multi-year collaborations** to support the sustained development of stable health systems in low-resource communities.
- We share **knowledge and educational resources to build employable skills in medical support professionals** in our partnering communities.

### *We are driven by the needs of our partners.*

After several decades of work with our partners, we understand the common needs and opportunities. Always in ongoing dialogue with the evolving needs of our partners, we focus on:

1



**Health system building, especially maternal/infant/child services.**

2



**Disaster and crisis recovery and rebuilding.**

3



**Medical/surgical mission support.**

4



**Biomedical equipment and technology support services.**

# Clean Birth Kits to support maternal/infant survival rates

***Because a baby's first birthday should be a celebration, not a statistic.***

For many infants and mothers in low-resource parts of the world, surviving birth and infancy is not possible due to a lack of access to medical care and clean, appropriate instruments for delivery. We can prevent these tragedies.

Mission Outreach is launching a new maternal/infant health initiative to help create and ship Clean Birth Kits annually to places where medical facilities are unavailable or mothers cannot afford a hospital delivery. Clean Birth Kits reduce infant and maternal mortality rates when used in conjunction with midwives, traditional birth attendants (TBAs), and/or community health educators.

The kits contain items necessary to deliver a baby while preventing injury and/or infection due to improper instruments, an instruction sheet in the most-commonly spoken language, as well as an infant hat and receiving blanket.

Each kit costs $15 to produce and ship. Mission Outreach has a goal of funding 3,000 kits the first year with a plan to fund 5,000 kits by year two, the annual identified need from international medical partners.



*A mother in Migori, Kenya, holds her baby as she works at her fruit stand. The Clean Birth Kit program supports mother and baby health in areas where access to clinical care for delivery may not be available.*

Members of Central Illinois Chapter of The Links, Inc. have volunteered to assemble and prepare kits for international shipment to partners in African and Central/South American countries. Funding to launch the Clean Birth Kit program was provided by the San Damiano grant from the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis.

With the support of our volunteers and financial donors, the Mission Outreach Clean Birth Kit project can have a direct impact on the survival and thriving of infants and mothers worldwide.

# Little masks make a huge difference for pediatric care

***Tanzanian hospital receives critically needed medical equipment, pediatric oxygen masks***



*Dr. Sister Hellen Kyilyosudu holds a pediatric oxygen mask donated by Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach.*



*The St. Joseph Hospital medical director looks at an incubator that arrived in a shipment from Mission Outreach in June 2024.*

*TANZANIA* – Dr. Sister Hellen Kyilyosudu is a practicing physician and the CEO of St. Joseph Hospital in Moshi, Tanzania. In June 2024, St. Joseph received their first Mission Outreach container – requested incubators, pharmaceutical-grade freezers, hospital beds and many other needed medical supplies and equipment. Biomedical Engineer Ratish Kumar and Executive Director Erica Smith traveled to Moshi to assist with unloading and installing the items.

While Dr. Sister Hellen was excited by all the biomedical equipment, it was a box of pediatric oxygen masks that caused her biggest smile. "We cannot source enough of these masks locally for pediatric patients," she explained. "Having these masks will make all the difference for our children."

Sponsored by the Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro, St. Joseph Hospital is a dynamic organization providing health care, education and employment to a population of 535,000 people in the Moshi District. Thanks to an introduction from the Catholic Health Association and support of Pagliara Family Charities, Mission Outreach started working with St. Joseph in 2023 and has shipped two 40' containers of medical supplies and equipment.

For the next phase, Mission Outreach will help equip a new Women and Children's Center under construction on the St. Joseph campus. We will be sending an estimated seven to nine additional 40' containers of medical equipment, with support services to help the St. Joseph team procure items locally.

# Celebrating partners in our 100th country served







### *Habwawihe Medical Polyclinic in Burundi receives shipment to Mission Outreach's 100th country*

*BURUNDI* – Helping their medical team access the resources they need to care for as many patients as possible is a priority for Habwawihe Medical Polyclinic in Bujumbura, Burundi. Malaria, HIV/Aids, Cholera, and Yellow Fever are threats to the health of the people in the area. "Maternal and infant mortality is also VERY high," representatives of the clinic noted in their initial correspondence with Mission Outreach. Indeed, it is – an infant born in Burundi has a 7-times greater chance of dying before their first birthday than that of a baby born the United States.

To support Habwawihe Medical Polyclinic's efforts to improve outcomes for their patients, Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach sent a 40' container of medical supplies and equipment to them in August 2024. The shipment of 8,000 pounds of items contained 1,272 boxes/items – including a birthing bed, an incubator and two infant warmers, all of which were provided by HSHS hospitals.

A special celebration was held for this shipment because Burundi is the 100th country served in Mission Outreach's 23-year history. Staff, volunteers, the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, and even Reverend Ezechiel Habwawihe and his family joined in the festivities. (Rev. Habwawihe is the pastor of Morgantown United Methodist Church in Indiana. Thanks to his work and a generous financial sponsor, this project to Burundi was made possible.)

> *Please thank your entire team -- what incredible gifts you sent to Sacre Coeur [Hospital]. They are so valuable and will be used for years; what an upgrade to their care you have made. The danger they are all in everyday plus the poverty is so stressful; this is one super encouragement.*
>
> *What astounded me as much as the wonderful contents was the incredible way the container was packed.*
>
> ***If you were sending these things for your own family, you could not have been more careful in packing and organizing them.*** *I cannot find words to adequately thank your team there.*
>
> *I noticed how tired everyone looked in the picture you sent me as you finished loading the container and looking at it being unpacked tells me why.*
>
> *Blessing for the New Year to all of the team.*
>
> *Sr. Carol*

## Treating our international partners like our own family

*LEBANON* – Working with the Daughters of Charity in Lebanon, Mission Outreach was able to send an initial 40-foot container of medical supplies and equipment to Sacre Cour Hospital in Lebanon. The project was sponsored by generous American financial donors and shipped in January 2024. That shipment was followed by another container thanks to Bon Secours Mercy Health. A third container is being planned in 2025, and funds are now being raised for the project.

Mission Outreach received the following letter from Sister Carol Keehan, DC, who helped make the first container to Sacre Cour Hospital possible:

# Mission Outreach supports Hurricane Beryl relief efforts

*JAMAICA –* In June, Hurricane Beryl swept through the Caribbean, Mexico, and the Gulf Coast, hitting Jamaica particularly hard with thousands of people in need of food, shelter, and emergency health care following the storm.

Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach supported the relief efforts of our established partner, Food for the Poor, as they quickly mobilized to meet the needs of the Jamaican people. Our fastest container preparation ever, in less than two weeks the team at Mission Outreach assembled a 40-foot container of cots, medical supplies, and other requested health-related items from our warehouses for shipment to Jamaica.




*Mission Outreach team members Jay Rees and Lou Cueto load mattresses onto a shipment going to Jamaica.*



*A mother in Trujillo, Peru, offers her daughter a drink of water from a purifier provided by Mission Outreach, Bon Secours Mercy Health, and the Hermanas de Bon Secours.*

# Good health starts outside the hospital

***Mission Outreach collaborates with Bon Secours Mercy Health to provide water purifiers to flood-stricken areas of Peru***

*PERU –* In 2023, Mission Outreach partnered with Bon Secours Mercy Health to ship 2,000 water purifiers to the Peru coastal region after an unusually intense rainy season left thousands of families without homes or access to potable water. The purifiers were distributed throughout the Trujillo area, where residents were most affected by the flooding (and subsequent dengue fever outbreaks) and most likely to experience poverty.

Bon Secours Mercy Health has a well-established partnership with the Hermanas de Bon Secours in

# Helping to maintain health resources in the midst of war

*Ukrainian partners receive 10 containers, 300 requested surgical kits*

> We have been looking and looking for help to find these items for our doctors. And now here you are at our table!




*UKRAINE –* This joyful proclamation was made by a Ukrainian priest in Lviv in April 2024 upon learning about Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach. He had been working for several months helping local health care providers source surgical kits to be used in Ukrainian field hospitals. Civilians and soldiers who were injured from bombs but couldn't be transported to a hospital immediately were suffering and dying for lack of available surgical tools and equipment.

Erica Smith, Executive Director of Mission Outreach, was seated at the Archbishop of Lviv's table where she learned of this specific and critical need last year during a visit to Ukraine. She was in Lviv, Kyiv, Odessa, and other areas of the country with representatives from the Catholic Health Association and the International Catholic Migration Commission to learn what further medical support could help Ukrainian health care and social service providers.

Upon returning to the U.S., Smith shared her experiences in a presentation delivered to several local faith-based and civic groups. Thanks to the community's generosity, the partnership with Henry Schein and additional support from Bon Secours Mercy Health, Mission Outreach raised enough funds to purchase and ship 300 surgical kits (with 15 additional needed hospital beds and tables) to meet the request of field surgeons and clinicians.

Since 2023, Mission Outreach has shipped ten 40' containers to Ukrainian partners who are helping maintain the health care infrastructure amid the destruction and desolation of war. More donations are scheduled to be shipped throughout 2025.

Lima/Trujillo and invited Mission Outreach to travel to Peru in July 2024 with Camille Grippon, System Director of Global Ministries at Bon Secours Mercy Health. We were able to see the work of the Hermanas and understand further opportunities to support clinical and community health care resources for the people of Trujillo and Lima.

Although we specialize in medical supplies and equipment, we know good health depends on basic needs being met – clean water, nutritious food and a safe place to live. It was incredible to see a mother giving her toddler daughter water from a purifier we shipped. We are planning follow-up support, including a 40' container of requested medical items and more purifiers to continue meeting clinical and community health needs of those most vulnerable.

# Every patient outcome Mission Outreach improves around the world is made possible through the generosity of our material and financial donors.

Yes, global health matters – to protect us from disease and care for the environment, ensuring all people live in healthy communities. While both are important reasons to support global health efforts, we know they alone are not sufficient. It's not good enough to simply take care of ourselves or keep things out of our landfills. We must also work to ensure access to basic clinical care for all people.

Mission Outreach exists to improve the health and wellness of people across the globe through the responsible donation of medical supplies, equipment and support services. As a Medical Supply and Equipment Recovery Organization (MSRO), we collect medical supplies and equipment from hospitals across the Midwest and make them available to health care facilities in low-resource areas around the world. We're grateful to our members – Ascension, Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS), Mercy Health, OSF HealthCare, Prevea Health – for the donation of thousands of pounds of medical supplies and equipment each year.

We see our role as a partner with other clinicians around the world who we help develop health care and sustain it in their community. HSHS is the ONLY health system in the United States with a global health affiliate like Mission Outreach. What a testament that is to continue the legacy and mission of our founding Hospital Sisters of St. Francis.

Throughout FY24, Mission Outreach completed 17 container (40-foot) and 95 hand-carry shipments. We served 59 international partners in 34 countries. All totaled, $4,962,270 worth of requested, critically needed supplies and equipment were delivered, all coordinated from our headquarters in Springfield, Illinois. Our international partners in low-resource areas cover a combined population service area of 28,000,000 people – saving lives, improving health, and building sustainable health systems around the world.



*As a recipient of the Henry Schein Global Cares program, Mission Outreach receives approximately $300,000 value of donated medical supplies – and the expertise and support of the Henry Schein professional team. Pictured (L to R): Erica Smith, Nick Amdor, Dawn Prieur (Henry Schein), Vicki Detmers, Patti Lopez (Henry Schein).*



*Elaine and Jerry Kuhn (Left) and Cori Fuchs all support Mission Outreach with their time as regular volunteers and through monetary support.*



*Volunteers deliver a contribution to the Foundation in support of the project to send surgical kits to Ukraine. (L to R) Yvonne Singley, Natalie Stitt (HSHS Foundation coordinator), Wanza Davis, and Patricia Davis.*

# Mission Outreach Donors 2024

**$150,000+**

Bon Secours Mercy Health

**$25,000 - $49,999**

Timothy Pagliara

**$10,000 - $24,999**

Robert & Kathy Wiesemann
Margaret Timms
Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception
Prevea Health
Michael and Beth O'Shea
Mike & Carrie O'Brien
John & Helen Cornell

**$5,000 - $9,999**

Kevin and Sue Breheny
Brad & Sarah Davis
Joann Lenn
Dr. James & Annette McDermott
Penelope Meyer
John & Sue Prange
Roman Cultural Society of Central IL
Sisters of the Precious Blood
Stephen & Susan Stedman
Randy Ware
Drs. Keith & Lisa Wichterman

**$1,000 - $4,999**

Lucy Acheson*
B&B Electric, Inc.*
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Dr. & Mrs. George Lederhaas
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Dr. & Mrs. Theodore R. Sunder
Raymond Watson
Pamela White
Carrie Wilcox
Terry & Georgia Winson*

**World of Giving*

# By the Numbers | 2024

**112**
Shipments
Containers and hand-carry.

**59**
International Partners

**34**
Countries

**$4,962,270**
Equipment/ Supplies Delivered

**$331,563**
Annual value of volunteer time

# Medical/surgical mission support

A key part of Mission Outreach's global health work is "hand carry" shipments. Clinical teams from the United States who are traveling to do medical mission work can order the medical supplies they need, then transport them in country. Last year, Mission Outreach completed 97 hand-carry orders, supporting these clinical teams to deliver primary care, specialty care, and surgery possible for thousands of patients in places where these health services otherwise may not be available.

## International partner: Silver Service Children's Foundation/Casa De Columbia

**Location of clinical care:** Columbia
**Shipment type:** Hand-carry (pediatric orthopedics)
**Date:** October 2024



Mission Outreach has provided medical and surgical supplies to our friends at Silver Service Children's Foundation for many years. They support medical and surgical clinics several times a year for people in Central and South America.

In October 2024 they did an orthopedics medical mission in Colombia. Thanks to their efforts and partnership with Mission Outreach, they provided 159 specialized orthopedic medical consultations, 36 pre-anesthesia consultations, 36 pediatric operations, 98 surgical procedures, and 90 pre-surgical exams and X-ray.

## International partner: MARY Maternity Center at the St. Jules clinic

**Location of clinical care:** Haiti
**Shipment type:** Hand-carry (obstetrics)
**Date:** August 2024



Dear Mission Outreach team:

I want to again thank you so much for all the help and support you and Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach have provided the MARY Maternity Center at the St. Jules clinic in very rural Petit Bourg du Borgne, Haiti. You have been providing much needed equipment and supplies for our obstetrical team in Haiti since October 2023. In August 2024, you sent 40 boxes of material that our local staff was thrilled to receive.

**Here are pictures of some of the many newborns you helped bring into the world.** You can see some of the donated equipment in use in the pictures. These pictures were taken in the last couple of weeks.

Dr. Tom Grabenstein, Immaculate Conception/St. Jules Haiti team

## International partner: World Pediatrics

**Location of clinical care:** Guatemala
**Shipment type:** Hand-carry (surgical support)
**Date:** April 2024



Thank you to Hospital Sisters Medical Outreach for your support of our Guatemala Urology team. The impact of our visit:

**Children Treated: 62**
**Surgeries: 31**
**Training Hours: 56**

**Patient story from World Pediatrics: Two-year-old Noe was born with kidney problems.**

When they first sought out help, the first medical solution was to remove his left kidney. However, his family decided to look for other options that included a better prognosis and financial and medical assistance. They searched until they found FUNDANIER, who referred them to the Urology team through World Pediatrics.

Instead of removing his kidney, they were able to provide a successful surgery with a safe alternative. His healing journey is going smoothly, and Noe's family is grateful to World Pediatrics and Dr. Kaefer's team.

## Operation Hope Medical Missions

**Location of clinical care:** Honduras
**Shipment type:** Hand-carry (surgical support)
**Date:** May 20, 2024



Dear Mission Outreach,

I just wanted to give you an update about our spring surgical mission trip to Comayagua, Honduras. It was a HUGE success as we provided 102 patients with free surgical procedures during the week!

Our team completed 46 hernia repairs, 23 gallbladder removals, and 33 GYN procedures! These procedures were literally life-changing for the patients!

I cannot thank Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach enough for supporting our efforts in Honduras by allowing our team to acquire supplies! We couldn't serve the patients in Honduras so well if it wasn't for generous supporters such as Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach!! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!

I look forward to working together in the future on our next surgical mission trip in the spring of 2025.

Enjoy the attached pictures and please share with your colleagues!

With deepest gratitude,

Matt Miller, DNAP, CRNA
Founder, Operation Hope Medical Missions

## Mission Outreach hand-delivers urgently needed ultrasound to Ukrainian hospital

*UKRAINE* - In the spring of 2023, through a collaboration facilitated by the Catholic Health Association, Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach worked with the Knights of Columbus (Ukraine, Poland, U.S.), Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB), and the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) to ship a 40-foot container of critically needed, requested medical supplies and equipment to hospitals throughout central and western Ukraine.

The project was successful, and a subsequent shipment (sponsored by Bon Secours Mercy Health) arrived safety in Ukraine in summer 2024. Also, to continue the collaboration, Erica Smith from Mission Outreach had the opportunity to travel to Ukraine to meet with administrators and clinicians at hospitals that received items from the initial shipment.

Because one of the requested items on the second shipment was urgently needed, Smith delivered it during her visit to Ukraine. The item, a handheld portable ultrasound, (Sonon Healcerion 300C) is used for trauma care.

The handheld portable ultrasound is cable-free technology with just the transducer working on any smart device connected to Wi-Fi. The device is lightweight and provides easy access in any urgent situation including emergency diagnosis and surgery and gives clinicians the ability to use the ultrasound even without internet or stable electricity.

## HSHS, Mission Outreach, and TRIMEDX Foundation enhance collaboration for surplus medical equipment donation

Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach is grateful to have a long-standing partnership with TRIMEDX Foundation for the testing and repair of medical equipment that cannot be completed at our warehouse. Now, under the new clinical engineering partnership between Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) and TRIMEDX, Mission Outreach will be collaborating even more closely with our HSHS and TRIMEDX colleagues.

In early January 2024, members of TRIMEDX and TRIMEDX Foundation team visited Mission Outreach to tour the warehouse, learn about the operations, and discuss opportunities for further collaboration to improve clinical access to care around the world.

“Mission Outreach receives 75 percent of our donated equipment from HSHS hospitals,” said Kumar. “Our international partners depend on the strength of our partnership with HSHS and TRIMEDX to help provide life-saving care using biomedical equipment that is effective and sustainable.”

TRIMEDX Foundation also provides biomedical engineer volunteers to assist with biomedical equipment needs. In 2024, two volunteer engineers, Jose Gonzalez and Charlie Hanover, worked at Mission Outreach. The two-day volunteer experience was very productive; Gonzalez and Hanover tested a c-arm, X-ray, ultrasound, surgical microscopes, centrifuges, anesthesia machines, and infant incubators.

Mission Outreach is keen to continue working with TRIMEDX and TRIMEDX Foundation on biomedical equipment dispositions and many other areas including volunteer opportunities, knowledge sharing, and training/education.



*Volunteer biomedical engineers Jose Gonzalez and Charlie Hanover donated two days of work to help test and prepare equipment for shipment.*

## Preparing future global health biomedical engineers

***IC students complete field work, learn about global health at Mission Outreach***

Through the Illinois College global health education partnership, Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach welcomed Ashly Cedeno, sophomore engineering student at Illinois College as an intern for the spring 2024 semester. We asked Ashly to share some insight about her internship experience:

***What is the greatest lesson you've learned during your training at Mission Outreach?***

I learned that I don't have to know everything about the biomedical field. When I started my internship, I was very nervous. I thought I needed to know every single detail about how machines work, maintenance, functions, and more. I now know that it is more important to keep an open mind and rely on problem solving. Although having a base knowledge is important, being able to tackle problems through trial and error is just as important.

***What was the most rewarding thing about working at Mission Outreach this spring?***

I enjoyed learning about the medical equipment that the healthcare field uses and the role biomedical engineers have. It is also rewarding to work with machines that will not only help people in need of medical equipment, but also in a sustainable way. Machines that would otherwise be scrapped can now be repurposed and sent to be used by others.



*Ashly testing Philips Heartstart MRx defibrillator using defibrillator analyzer at Mission Outreach biomedical engineering lab.*

# Volunteers at Mission Outreach

Mission Outreach depends on our volunteer corps to sort and inventory donations, assist in the warehouse, support our administrative tasks, and help with events. Volunteers also serve as ambassadors in our community – sharing our message with others and helping spread the word about Mission Outreach.

In 2024, several hundred volunteers donated 9,800 hours of their time to Mission Outreach – processing 808 pallets of medical supply donations from sort to inventory, making them available to international partners for ordering. We welcomed 99 new volunteers and 19 groups from Hospital Sisters Health System.

Many of our volunteers also donate financially to Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach. From honoring each other's life milestones, to supporting our efforts to provide surgical kits to Ukraine, volunteers invest both their time and treasure into improving access to clinical healthcare for patients around the world.

**Thanks to our volunteers for giving their time, talent, and treasure – and being a part of our team to achieve our mission.**





*Our sort room volunteers handle our supply donations from the point of coming off the truck to going on our warehouse shelves, ready for ordering. Sort room and data entry volunteers inspect items for quality and ensure they are in-date. They clean and pack surgical instruments and enter finished boxes into our online inventory system.*



*Mission Outreach is blessed to have three Hospital Sisters of St. Francis as regular volunteers: (L to R) Sister Ann Pitsenberger, Sister Trudy O'Connor, and Sister Ritamary Brown regularly assist with tasks in our sort room and offices.*








*Our volunteers also help us in the warehouse, and with specialized projects and inventory items.*

# Around Mission Outreach 2024



*Mission Outreach Biomedical Engineer Ratish Kumar was selected as the TechNation 2025 Humanitarian of the Year. Thanks to everyone who voted for Ratish!*



*The Sudanese American Medical Association (SAMA) chose Mission Outreach to receive the 2024 Corporate Award for supporting the SAMA Medical Supplies Program. Representing SAMA to present the award was Dr. Ezzeldin Saleh, assistant professor of clinical pediatrics at SIU School of Medicine and physician at HSHS St. John's Hospital.*



*Students from the Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) Radiography student club volunteered to help sort medical supply donations. Throughout 2024, Mission Outreach saved the LLCC Health Professions program approximately $125,000 by donating medical supplies that are not appropriate for international shipment but can be used for student training.*



*Mission Outreach was blessed to be included in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage on Wednesday, July 10, 2024. The procession began near St. Francis of Assisi Church then traveled to the Hospital Sisters' chapel, the Franciscan Brothers' chapel, Mission Outreach, and then returned to St. Francis of Assisi Church.*

*After 11 years of service at Mission Outreach, Sue McMillan retired in December. Volunteers, staff, Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, and friends gathered to celebrate Sue's contributions to our team and wish her well in the future. Sue (right) is pictured with Sister Ann Pitsenberger, OSF.*






*Two Mission Outreach surgery sorter volunteers, Tricia Crouch and Barb Schmidt, were included in the 2024 Good As Gold community volunteer awards. Pictured at the ceremony at UIS in April 2024 are (L to R): Sue McMillan, Tricia, Barb, and Joe Hardwick.*



*Ratish Kumar, biomedical engineer, and Rachelle Barina, chief mission officer at HSHS, were honored as "Tomorrow's Leaders" at the Catholic Health Association assembly in San Diego in June.*

HOSPITAL SISTERS
**Mission Outreach**

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