

Contact: Ms.Dana Carns
Director: Development, Marketing, PublicRelations
St. Augustine HealthCampus
7801 Detroit Ave, Cleveland, OH 44102
Cell: 216-218-7984 Fax:216-634-7483
www.staugustinemanor.org



NEWS RELEASE / REQUEST FOR COVERAGE

Life Enriching Gardens Take Root at St. Augustine Health Campus

Cleveland March 17, 2008 - On Tuesday, March 25th at 3:30 p.m., a groundbreaking ceremony will begin turning the long awaited dream of the Life Enriching Gardens at St. Augustine Health Campus into a reality. Members of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, families and Residents will join in the Celebration. Bishop Roger Gries will Bless the ground upon which residents will find healing for years to come.

The groundbreaking comes after three years of planning and fund-raising. For many years a secure park-like garden area for Residents has been the dream of residents, families and staff of St. Augustine Health Campus. Upon completion, the estimated cost of the project is \$240,000 and includes a new covered entrance from the parking lot to the building.

Located in the former St. John's Hospital Building at W. 78th and Detroit, St. Augustine Health Campus is surrounded by concrete, bricks and mortar. Residents currently sit outside in front of the building on Detroit Road or just outside of the doors to the parking lot. The project will turn a portion of the existing parking lot into a secure park-like setting with mature shade trees, a walking path, seating areas, a water feature and areas for prayer and meditation. Areas for resident gardening, outdoor intergenerational activities, and special plants to attract birds and butterflies will provide enjoyment for all.

St. Augustine's goal is to promote overall health and wellness by addressing the social, emotional, spiritual and physical well-being of each resident entrusted to our care.

"There are so many needs in health care, but we are really committed -- as a faith-based organization -- to treating the needs of the whole person," said Patrick Gareau, President of St. Augustine Health Campus. "This fits so much into what we are doing at St. Augustine to foster independence and an environment that feels as much like home as possible."

“Most people enjoy sitting in the yard, working with plants, and listening to birds. Residents in nursing homes should have the same opportunities to enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of nature,” said Jerrold Blackmore, Administrator of St. Augustine Manor. “The Life Enriching Gardens will provide each of those elements and more”

The Gardens is a complimentary therapy in ones well-being. The therapy is used to help our aging residents, those dealing with MS, stroke, traumatic brain injury, and HIV/AIDS, to encounter the healing power of nature.

"This is really more of community project than a St. Augustine Health Campus project," said Dana Carns, Director of Development, Marketing and Public Relations. “The greater community has been committed to this project and worked hard for it over the years.” Over the past three years staff contributions in addition to fund-raisers spearheaded by long-time volunteer, the late Tom Kemer, and a volunteer committee has raised more than \$193,000 toward the \$240,000 project. A grant from The Eva and Joseph Bruening Foundation provided the additional monies needed to begin the project. Naming opportunities and donations from garden clubs and area nurseries will assist in maintaining the Life Enriching Gardens for years to come.

St. Augustine Health Campus is a non-profit senior living community founded in 1969 by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Cleveland. St. Augustine is home to 350 individuals in need of short and long term care, in-patient and out-patient rehabilitation, skilled nursing care and assisted living.

For additional information about St. Augustine Health Campus, contact the Development Office at 216-939-7602 or visit the website at www.staugustinemanor.org



From left to right:

Carmen Naso,
Jerry Blackmore,
Patrick Gareau,
Tom Mullen,
Mary Clark,
Aldo Camerin,
Sam Lucarelli,
Bishop Roger Gries.
