

## **Pioneer Days festival benefits worthy charities with long history in Delta County**

ESCANABA – The third annual “Balloons on the Bays & Pioneer Days” festival will benefit two charitable organizations with long and unique histories in our communities. Proceeds will benefit the OSF St. Francis Hospital & Medical Group Foundation, which provides funds for needed patient services and equipment, as well as OSF Hospice, the first hospice in the Upper Peninsula and first rural hospice in Michigan.

OSF St. Francis Hospital & Medical Group and the Sisters of The Third Order of St. Francis have been providing care to residents of Delta County and surrounding areas since 1884. At the request of a local pastor, the city mayor and a county physician, the Sisters began conducting the then Delta County Hospital as paid nurses by the city. In addition to caring for patients, they did all the housecleaning, laundry and maintenance duties for the building; cared for the vegetable garden, which provided patients with food; milked the cows; and tended the chickens and pigs. The average daily charge per patient for all of these services was 75 cents; about \$6 per month. Payment was often in the form of eggs, meat, and coffee. The Sisters also provided an early outreach program, visiting lumber camps to provide health care to the lumbermen.

The Sisters purchased the hospital in 1915, renaming it St. Francis Hospital. Over the years, it has grown to become a fully-integrated health care facility with hospital, home based and physician services. The current hospital building was constructed in 1986. In 1995, the OSF Medical Office Building was added, and an 11-bed kidney dialysis center was built in 2000 with community donations. In 2006, another addition was made to the Hospital to house a new permanent Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) unit, and a Cardiac Diagnostic Center was introduced. In fall 2008, the Hospital continued its expansion efforts with a new Emergency Department and Walk-In Clinic.

### **The OSF Foundation**

Through the OSF St. Francis Hospital & Medical Group Foundation, individuals and groups are able to make an investment in the future of healthcare in our communities. The Foundation was formed in 1992. Its purpose is to ensure access to quality health care today and well into the future. To date over \$9 million has been given to the OSF Foundation, primarily through private donations and planned giving opportunities. The Foundation is directed by a Council of community leaders dedicated to overseeing the finances of the Foundation and ensuring monies are used wisely and appropriately. All funds raised through the OSF Foundation are used locally to benefit OSF St. Francis Hospital & Medical Group patients. Monies have been used to purchase a variety of equipment and initiate a number of new services, including:

- Expanded Emergency Department and Walk-In Center
- Permanent Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) services
- Surgical equipment
- Dialysis Center
- Portable automated external defibrillators(AEDs) for local emergency responders
- New mammography unit
- Infant intensive care warmer for critically ill and premature infants
- Central fetal monitoring system
- Anesthesia monitors
- Bone density unit
- New wheelchairs
- Portable screening units for carotid and peripheral artery disease, stroke and bone density

A gift to the OSF St. Francis Hospital & Medical Group Foundation has a direct impact on the lives of individuals and families in our communities. It is an investment in the future and an opportunity to ensure quality health care for generations to come.

For more information about the Foundation or how to make a gift, call Jessica Stewart, director of development, at 786-5707, ext. 5513, or visit [www.osfstfrancis.org](http://www.osfstfrancis.org).

### **OSF Hospice**

With a shorter but no less rich history, OSF Hospice marked its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2003 and provides services to terminally ill patients and their families. Organized as Bay de Noc Hospice in 1978, it is the oldest rural hospice in Michigan and the first in the Upper Peninsula, and has become a model for its care provided in patients' homes.

Through hospice, a team of physicians, nurses, aids, clergy, social workers and volunteers all work together to offer care for terminally ill patients and their families, including extended bereavement support.

“Providing hospice care, being involved in the very private experience of the dying process with a patient and their loved ones, is a cherished honor for our staff members and volunteers,” said Suzanne Vogler, manager of OSF Home Care & Hospice. “It is not uncommon for staff and volunteers to make lifelong friends with family members through the hospice experience. One of the greatest rewards we can receive is knowing the care and support that Hospice provides really makes a difference in peoples lives.”

For more information about OSF Hospice, visit [www.osfhomecare.org](http://www.osfhomecare.org), or call 786-3915.