

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Highland's Wound Care Center Brings Attention to Growing Need for Wound Care June is Wound Care Awareness Month

HIGHLAND— The Wound Care Center at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Highland, a member of the Healogics network, is helping raise awareness of the risks of chronic wounds during Wound Care Awareness Month. With the support of Healogics, the nation's leading provider of advanced wound care, Wound Care Center staff are focusing on educating the underserved chronic wound population about the importance of early detection and treatment of chronic wounds.

Wound Care Center's Clinical Program Director Melissa Albert shared, "Millions of people in the United States are living with non-healing wounds and sadly, the numbers continue to grow as risks go unrealized. We are using this month to educate physicians, patients, and the general public about chronic wound prevalence and advanced wound care solutions that can help." The Wound Care Center offers several advanced therapies to patients suffering from chronic wounds.

The incidence of chronic wounds is rising due to an aging population and increasing rates of disease. People living with chronic wounds often have multiple medical issues that can make healing their wounds extremely challenging. For example, a person living with diabetes may also have cardiac disease, peripheral vascular disease and kidney disease that could all cause a delay in healing. A non-healing wound could lead to severe complications such as infection which could ultimately result in an amputation or even loss of life.

St. Joseph's wound care experts strive to bring together people, processes, and technology to drive world-class wound care. Untreated or improperly treated chronic wounds can lead to diminished quality of life and possibly amputation of the affected limb. With this in mind, now is the time for those suffering from chronic wounds to seek advanced wound care available at HSHS St. Joseph's Wound Care Center.

Contact HSHS St. Joseph's Wound Care Center if you have a wound that will not heal with traditional treatment methods. For more information or to schedule a consultation, call 618-651-2502. Patients may be seen with or without a physician's referral.

Visit <u>www.woundcareawareness.com</u> to learn more about wound care awareness and hear from patients about how wound healing changed their lives. More information about St. Joseph's Wound Care Center can be found at the hospital's web site at <u>hshs.org/st-josephs-highland/services/wound-care</u>.

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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 physician practices and 15 local hospitals in two states – 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, and Hospital Sisters of St. Francis is the founding institute. For more information about HSHS, visit www.hshs.org. For more information about Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, visit www.hospitalsisters.org.

About Healogics

Headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla., Healogics is the nation's wound healing expert. Last year over 300,000 patients received advanced wound care through a network of over 600 Wound Care Centers. Healogics also partners with over 300 skilled nursing facilities to care for patients with chronic wounds and provides inpatient consults at more than 60 partner hospitals. As the industry leader, Healogics has the largest repository of chronic wound-specific patient data in the country. The Healogics Wound Science Initiative offers peer-reviewed research and advanced analytics in the pursuit of not only better outcomes, but a better way to provide care.