



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 13, 2024

**Contact:** Vicki Macklin

**Phone:** 217-347-1436

**Email:** [Vicki.Macklin@hshs.org](mailto:Vicki.Macklin@hshs.org)

**PRESS RELEASE**

Help HSHS Home Care Collect  
“Sweet” and “Sweet-smelling” Items for HACSM Food Pantry  
*Drive to be held Tuesday, Feb. 27 on HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital campus*

**HIGHLAND, III.** — HSHS Home Care is holding their annual food drive this month where you can help “Cram the Car” with “sweet” non-perishable food items and “sweet-smelling” hygiene products for the Highland Area Christian Services Ministry (HACSM) food pantry to help those struggling with food insecurity.

Community members are invited to “cram” a Home Care car by donating non-perishable food items, hygiene products and monetary donations for the HACSM food pantry. On Tuesday, Feb. 27, a HSHS Home Care branded car will be parked on the HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital Highland campus in the circle drive near the main entrance from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. accepting donations.

Valerie Engelbart, volunteer/bereavement services supervisor for HSHS Home Care, shared, “Our HSHS Mission is to reveal and embody Christ’s healing love for all people through our high-quality Franciscan health care ministry. In this tradition, we are privileged that patients and families trust us with their care and the care of their loved ones,” she said. “We place our patients at the center of all we do, including remaining committed to the communities where they live and where we serve. That is why we conduct outreach events like our ‘Cram the Car’ to provide for the needs of the community.”

Some “sweet” and “sweet-smelling” items that the food pantry suggested are:

- Granola bars
- Pancake syrup
- Cereal
- Cookie packs (snack size)
- Brownie mix
- Canned peaches
- Canned fruit cocktail
- Bar soap
- Hand soap (with pump)
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Deodorant

When donating, please check the expiration date of items and avoid donating expired goods.

For more information about the drive, contact Valerie Engelbart, volunteer/bereavement services supervisor for HSHS Home Care, at 217-685-0702 or email [Valerie.Engelbart@hshs.org](mailto:Valerie.Engelbart@hshs.org). To find out more about services offered by HSHS Home Care, visit [www.hshshomecare.org](http://www.hshshomecare.org).

###

**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](http://HospitalSistersofStFrancis.org) is the founding institute. For more information about HSHS, visit [hshs.org](http://hshs.org). For more information about Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, visit [hospitalersisters.org](http://hospitalersisters.org).