



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sacred Heart to Build Dog Park for Patients, Community

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Patients at Sacred Heart Hospital Pensacola will have a new space, dedicated to reconnecting both children and adults with their dogs, thanks to a \$25,000 “Bark for your Park” grant from PetSafe.

“As a Level II Trauma Center, Northwest Florida’s only Children’s Hospital and the regional center for high-risk pregnancy, Sacred Heart serves many seriously ill patients, both adults and children. Some of these patients have long-term hospital stays,” said Henry Stovall, chief executive officer of Sacred Heart Health System. “This new dog park will provide a safe, dedicated space for family members to bring dogs to visit their loved ones who are in the hospital. By reuniting our patients with their furry friends, we hope to boost morale and ultimately improve the healing process so patients can return home faster.”

In addition to serving Sacred Heart patients and families, the dog park will be open for all members of the community, with a projected completion of spring 2019.

The new dog park will be located on Sacred Heart’s Ninth Avenue campus in the Mother Seton Garden, which is the area between The Studer Family Children’s Hospital at Sacred Heart and the Medical Office Building. The dog park will include a water-faucet for thirsty dogs and benches for their human companions to sit on.

Sacred Heart is one of 13 communities selected from more than 120 applications for the PetSafe grant. Eight grant recipients will receive \$25,000 to build new dog parks. Five will receive \$5,000 for enhancements to current dog parks.

PetSafe is the largest manufacturer of electronic pet-training products in the U.S.

The Studer Family Children’s Hospital at Sacred Heart is a 117-bed facility that serves as the only children’s hospital in Northwest Florida. The Children’s Hospital offers a wide range of services to meet all of a child’s medical needs, from a pediatric emergency room and neonatal intensive care unit to a medical staff of more than 120 board-certified physicians across 30 pediatric specialties. The Children’s Hospital provides quality, compassionate care to children, regardless of their parents’ ability to pay. Sacred Heart Health System is a member of Ascension, the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world’s largest Catholic health system. For more information about the services available at The Studer Family Children’s Hospital at Sacred Heart, visit www.sacred-heart.org/childrenshospital.

About Sacred Heart Health System

In Florida, Ascension operates Sacred Heart Health System based in Pensacola and St. Vincent's HealthCare based in Jacksonville. Together, Ascension operates seven hospitals in Florida and more than 100 other sites of care, and they employ more than 10,000 associates. Across the region, Sacred Heart and St. Vincent's have served North Florida communities for more than 145 years. In fiscal year 2017, they provided \$168 million in community benefit and care of persons living in poverty. Ascension (www.ascension.org) is a faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to transformation through innovation across the continuum of care. As the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system, Ascension is committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. Ascension includes approximately 156,000 associates and 34,000 aligned providers. Ascension's Healthcare Division operates more than 2,600 sites of care – including 151 hospitals and more than 50 senior living facilities – in 21 states and the District of Columbia, while its Solutions Division provides a variety of services and solutions including physician practice management, venture capital investing, investment management, biomedical engineering, facilities management, clinical care management, information services, risk management, and contracting through Ascension's own group purchasing organization. For more information on Sacred Heart Health System, visit www.sacred-heart.org.

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