

## A neighbor to count on St. Bernard cultivates “a sense of community”

When the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph sent seven determined nuns to Chicago in the early 1900s, their goal was to raise enough money and gather unweilding support for a hospital in Englewood. The community, an offshoot of downtown Chicago that served the city as a major railway hub, was populated primarily by Irish, Swedish, and German immigrants. By 1904, Englewood welcomed St. Bernard Hospital (then known as St. Bernard Hotel Dieu) and the neighborhood came to 64th Street for emergency care, to give birth, and to access health care services that had never been more convenient.

This new hospital was the brainchild of Father Bernard Murray, who realized the community's need for ample health care. As anticipated, demands would increase and medical needs would grow more complex.

After its opening, St. Bernard served a primarily affluent population, and interestingly, 99% of those residents were caucasian. By the 1950s and '60s, demand on the hospital multiplied as a result of the increasing population, due in part to the effects of the Great Migration from the South. By the end of the tumultuous 1960s, nearly 70% of the Englewood population was African-American. The needs of the community were evolving, and St. Bernard Hospital welcomed an almost completely new client base.

Sadly, this period saw a dramatic change in the economic stability of this south side region, and many of Englewood's residents began to fall below the poverty level. Overall, the infrastructure of the community began to decline as well, as once prosperous business districts shuttered. Finally, in 1988, Englewood Hospital on South Green Street closed its doors, and all of Englewood now looked to St. Bernard as the sole community health care institution.

Despite economic challenges throughout the 1990s, St. Bernard persevered to continue the mission set forth by Father Murray, and soon the hospital flourished again with the goal of helping to promote and support the economic regrowth of the Englewood community.

This began with a key home ownership initiative to bolster affordable housing in the immediate vicinity of the hospital. In its initial stage, “Bernard Place” created promising new homes for 63 families in a development adjacent to the hospital.

“We realized that health care is really not limited to doctor's offices and emergency care,” said Charles Holland, Vice President of Planning and Development at the hospital, who resides over the St. Bernard Housing Development Corporation. “The economic stability brought on by home ownership lends itself significantly to everyday health and well-being.”



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# 5 NEED 2 KNOWS: H1N1

**1** The best way to fight any flu is a simple, time-tested precaution - **washing your hands**. The H1N1 flu spreads rapidly when germs spread by sneezing in hands or touching an infected surface. If you haven't washed your hands all day, or cleansed them with hand sanitizer, you are at greater risk.

**2** Those who do contract the virus will experience **symptoms** similar to the plain old seasonal flu, but it's important to consult a physician and test for H1N1. "This strain is very contagious," says Santine. "A doctor will tell you if you've got a bad cold or a harmful virus."

**3** **Call your physician** first - they may not want you outside spreading germs. "An infected person who rides the bus to the doctor, then sits in the waiting room, then rides back home, has potentially infected healthy people around them. Call first, and describe your symptoms," Santine advises.

**4** Luckily, there is help in the form of **flu vaccines**, which are now available nationwide. Along with the standard flu shot, an additional vaccine for H1N1 can be obtained at clinics and pharmacies throughout Chicago and beyond.

**5** **Stay informed** as the latest strain of H1N1 becomes a health care concern. For up to date information on H1N1, consult [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

The H1N1 virus, known previously as "swine flu," is making a comeback this fall, and experts contend that the latest strain of H1N1 will pose an even more serious threat than last year's global flu outbreak. "This has the potential to be a very serious health concern, in Chicago and all across the world," says Mary Santine, Infection Control Nurse Manager at St. Bernard Hospital. "We all must be diligent in practicing preventative measures."

***"By simply keeping a \$2 bottle of hand sanitizer at your desk or in your purse, you have the ability to conveniently wash away very harmful germs and avoid exposure..."***

Mary Santine  
Infection Control  
St. Bernard Hospital





# FOCUS on LABORATORY

With increased emphasis on technology and a greatly enhanced system of documentation and communication, the St. Bernard Laboratory recently wowed representatives of the Joint Commission during the accreditator's recent visit to the hospital. As a result, the department earned one of the highest reviews ever received at St. Bernard.

"We did very well last time," says Lab Director Barbara Lee on The Joint Commission's previous visit in 2007, "but we did great this time."

Ms. Lee points to the Laboratory's management staff, and the teamwork throughout three shifts of employees, as reasons why the department rated so well with officials. Consistent and timely training on new instruments and procedures has directly benefited the Lab staff, and various pieces of new equipment have accelerated flow of information between the Lab and other point-of-care locations in the building.

"We've got the latest and greatest equipment," she says. "It's our responsibility to make the most of it."



## Selection process will choose the Master Plan architect



After an 18-month process of preliminary studies, St. Bernard continues to move forward with an ambitious Facility Master Plan that will reshape the footprint of the hospital campus, including a new patient care tower along West 64th Street. This fall, the hospital will make a critical decision to select the architect who will lead the project throughout the next five years.

Having met with several different firms, the hospital has identified two candidates best equipped to develop the Facility Master Plan. "These are both very experienced firms," says Charles Holland, Vice President of Planning and Development at St. Bernard. "Each of them brings an extensive background in health care settings, and both offer a unique approach to this complex project."

Representatives of the hospital will next tour facilities previously developed by these firms, to gain a more substantive perspective on each firm's proposal. Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital and Lutheran General Hospital are two hospitals that St. Bernard plans to tour in coming weeks.

"In some ways, these tours give us a glimpse of what a future St. Bernard might look like," says Holland, the hospital's point person on the Facility Master Plan. "The creative vision of these architects is crucial to the design and development of our own facility."

December 2008

May 2009

October 2009

January 2010

2011 - Construction

2013 - Target Completion



The hospital is in the process of interviewing architectural candidates, considering the creativity of each firm to determine which firm can best create the future St. Bernard Hospital, incorporating various new features and designing a facility that best fits our operational requirements and the aesthetic needs of the community. Next, project contractors will be determined as the hospital works with the City of Chicago on property issues such as zoning and street closures.



*On August 22, The Red Carpet returned to Hyatt McCormick*

*Place for another fantastic night of dinner and dance. The annual gala raised nearly \$80K for the hospital. The Sun Times' Stella Foster served as honorary host, and Ald. Willie Cochran received the Father Bernard Murray "Good for Englewood" award.*

St. Bernard also shifted a great deal of focus to mobile services, creating a Pediatric Mobile Health Unit to visit school and day care centers to administer vaccines, physical exams, and referrals for children. In a proactive method, this clinic-on-wheels visits area school buildings during the academic calendar, reaching out to Englewood youth who may not otherwise be provided with proper, timely care.

"When we see children at St. Bernard Hospital, those encounters are often about addressing existing illnesses, broken bones, or chronic diseases," says Ronald Campbell, St. Bernard's Vice President of Patient Care Services. "The Mobile Unit is a preventative tool that provides care, keeps kids in the classroom, educates families about serious health risks and provides links to primary care. Some of the kids we see on the Mobile Unit might not otherwise see a doctor."

Today, St. Bernard's "A Sense of Community" theme resonates throughout the building, and will continue to expand and evolve over the course of early 2010. A relaunch is scheduled for January, taking a multifaceted approach to building upon the hospital's role in Englewood.

"We are placing a significant emphasis on addressing the needs of the community through specific programs and outreach services," says Sister Elizabeth Van Straten, RHSJ, President and CEO. "When visitors come to our hospital, we want them to know that this is a community institution, and that we reflect the fabric of our surroundings. More and more, I think people will realize that we really have quite a strong sense of community here at St. Bernard."

**ST. BERNARD HOSPITAL**  
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