



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **St. Matthew Center for Health in Park Ridge Holds Annual Spring Plant Sale to Fund Gardening Program**

Providing residents at St. Matthew Center for Health — a rehabilitation and long-term care facility in Park Ridge — with high-quality programming is an essential part of the organization’s mission. One of the most popular year-round activities at St. Matthew is horticulture therapy, which is provided through the Chicago Botanic Garden. This program is funded, in part, with proceeds from St. Matthew’s Annual Spring Plant Sale.

Area gardeners can pre-order a variety of annuals and perennials by April 23 for pick-up on Friday, May 11, just in time for Mother’s Day. In addition, on May 11, St. Matthew’s residents will be selling some of the plants they propagated over the winter. “St. Matthew residents have their own garden club,” says Kelly Fitzgerald, director of Recreation Services, “and they will have a special table during the pick-up day. [Gardening is] a wonderful activity for them,” she adds. “Our adaptive equipment and raised garden beds allow these seniors to continue a hobby they love.”

“The high quality of these plants and excellent prices bring buyers back year after year,” says Gerrienne Dathe, St. Matthew administrator. “We get the plants direct from growers in Illinois and Michigan. The lush hanging baskets are always a favorite,” she adds.

A limited number of plants will be available on May 11; however, area gardeners are encouraged to pre-order so they may get the plants they wish. The plant sale order form is available online at [www.StMatthewCenter.org](http://www.StMatthewCenter.org); or by calling 847/825-5531.

St. Matthew Center for Health, a program of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) founded in 1959, offers rehabilitation services, long-term care, respite care, hospice and a specialized dementia unit. St. Matthew is located at 1601 N. Western Avenue in Park Ridge, two blocks south of Dempster Street.

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Lutheran Social Services of Illinois