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Memorial Health System Opens Unity Garden in Downtown South Bend

Memorial Health System has joined with Unity Gardens, Inc. to develop the Memorial Unity Garden, which will be located on the northeast corner of Navarre and Michigan streets, across from Memorial Hospital in downtown South Bend.

The garden groundbreaking will take place at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 12.

The garden will provide food for Memorial's Nutritional Services Department (hospital cafeteria and salad bar), as well as for employee volunteers who help maintain the garden, with a portion of the food being available for disadvantaged people throughout the region.

Unity Gardens are designed to operate in a free and open manner, allowing people to stop by to help plant, weed, water, or harvest as they want or need. This open concept works to bring diverse communities together and provide food for those in need.

"Our goal is to make healthy, locally grown food more available and accessible throughout our community, while also building awareness about the importance of sustainable environments to the health of our community," says Erin Smith, Practice/Project Manager at Memorial Health System.

Memorial also signed Health Care Without Harm's "Healthy Food in Health Care Pledge" as a commitment to healthy foods for the safety and well-being of Memorial's patients, staff and visitors.

To learn more about the Memorial Unity Garden, please call Joe Vasta, Garden Leader and Director of Memorial's Nutritional Services Department, at 574-647-3015, or visit www.MemorialPlanetHealth.org.

[Media who would like to participate in the digging/planting are welcome to do so.
Please call Maggie Scroope at 574-274-3267.]

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