



## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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### ST. ANN'S CENTER "HOPE BLOSSOMS" GALA MARKS 162 YEARS OF CARE

**The *Daughters of Charity* have Supported Mothers & Children from Civil War through COVID**

(Washington, D.C.) St. Ann's Center's "Hope Blossoms" gala will celebrate 162 years of fulfilling a mission bestowed by then-President Abraham Lincoln: caring for vulnerable women and children in the Nation's Capital. The *Daughters of Charity*, who founded St. Ann's in 1860, have never wavered from their "yes" to Lincoln's challenge. Next month's gala will celebrate this steady tradition of caring – spanning numerous generations, presidents, wars, and pandemics.

**Event Location:** *Columbia Country Club*, Chevy Chase, MD

**Date:** Wednesday, May 11, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Master of Ceremonies:** [Michael Steele](#), MSNBC commentator

**Invocation:** [Wilton Cardinal Gregory](#), Archbishop of Washington

**Co-hosts:** Pam and Dennis Lucey

Judy and John Ritz will receive the *Mary McGrory Advocacy Award* – named for the [award-winning Washington Post journalist](#) who championed St. Ann's Center for more than five decades. Steve Heidenberger (in absentia) will be posthumously honored with the *Michele Heidenberger Volunteer Award*. Michele was an American Airlines flight attendant who volunteered with St. Ann's for many years before losing her life on September 11, 2001.

*Tickets to the Hope Blossoms Gala are available at:* <https://stanns2022.eventbrite.com/>

During the gala, St. Ann's CEO Sister Mary Bader, DC will share stories about St. Ann's history and impact. [Pre-event media availability with Sister Mary can be scheduled after April 15.](#)

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[St. Ann's Center](#) is one of the oldest continuing social service agencies in the Washington, D.C. area. Founded by the [Daughters of Charity in 1860](#), today St. Ann's provides mothers and their children experiencing homelessness with transitional housing and extensive support programming. Mothers are offered counseling, mentoring, life skills and parenting classes, opportunities for further education, and employment coaching. Children both in residence and from the community benefit from our on-site child care center, which also includes an Early Head Start program.

[www.stanns.org](http://www.stanns.org)  
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