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SAVANNAH COMMUNITY MEMORIES PROJECT
“FAITH IN ACTION” RESIDENCY
INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

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DIRECTOR/CAMERA: ERIC DARLING
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SUBJECT: SISTER MARGIE BEATTY



Sister Margaret Beatty

10:05:22:12 [Eric Darling]: All right. Ready? Ready when you are. Thank you kindly Just wait for Mickey to settle, Tom.

10:05:35:15 [Mickey Youmans]: Okay. I'm down.

10:05:38:15 [Eric Darling]: Okay. Anytime you're ready, Tom.

10:05:40:11 [Tom Kohler]: Alright, thank you. Well, good morning, Sister Margie. How are you?

10:05:43:23 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Good morning. I'm fine, thank you. Tom, thank

10:05:46:00 [Tom Kohler]: You for being with us. We appreciate it a lot.

10:05:47:16 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Ah, you're welcome.

10:05:49:10 [Tom Kohler]: Well, the first question I'm gonna ask you, if you don't mind, is to say your name and also spell your name.

10:05:54:22 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah. My name is Margaret, Sister Margaret Beatty. M-A-R-G-A-R-E-T-B-E-A-T-T-Y. And but, but most people call me Sister Margie. Yeah.

10:06:06:12 [Tom Kohler]: Thank you. And does Sister Margie have what is now known as a preferred pronoun?

10:06:11:16 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: She, please.

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- 10:06:14:02 [Tom Kohler]: And I'd be really interested, if you don't mind, if we could spend a little time just learning about you personally. And I'd be curious, like where, where you were born and, and kind of how you became the person you are today. And I'm going to leave those as very big open-ended questions, but as we go forward, I might poke in a little bit as well. Okay.
- 10:06:31:23 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Okay. Sure. Great. Well, I, I grew up in Baltimore, but Baltimore County, I, my parents lived in the country. It's, yeah. And I loved living in the country. I mean, you know, we didn't have a bus, we didn't have a movie theater that, of course, it was a long time ago, but it was a wonderful time to, to grow up and a wonderful place to grow up. And I, I went to Catholic school my whole life and I had one
- 10:07:05:12 brother. So, is that, is that the kind of thing you're thinking?
- 10:07:11:22 [Tom Kohler]: Yeah, and let me ask, when you were in Catholic school, how big were the classes? I mean, is this, is this like, is this like a little country school? Is it a bigger school? I mean, what, what's the, what's it feel like, I mean, for you in that time and, and how long ago were we talking?
- 10:07:25:10 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah, it would, we, I started in the first grade in 1946, so it was right after the war. And there were a lot of children. So we, we had pretty large classes, but we had, I mean, all sisters, they were Franciscan sisters. They weren't the Sisters of Mercy. And so the classes were large, but they, we got a good education there. And then I went to a Catholic high school too, in the city, it was called, it was called the Catholic High School. And that was an excellent education.
- 10:08:01:06 Again, we were taught by the sisters. I was, I was on the debate team at that time, and I learned a lot, you know, in, in that experience and made very good friends there. And then I went on to college to Mount St. Agnes College, but I was a day hop, so it, it was a quite a long ride every day
- 10:08:28:19 to in, in fact, I got two tickets one time in three days. But anyway, so that was my, but I only went one year to the college, and then I entered the community. The community.
- 10:08:45:01 [Eric Darling]: I'm sorry, sister, if you don't mind, would you do this without the notes in your hands? Sure. We can actually hear that rustling.

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10:08:51:01 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Oh, sorry, sorry, sorry.

10:08:52:07 [Eric Darling]: That's fine.

10:08:55:21 [Tom Kohler]: So then you entered the community after one year in college,

10:08:58:07 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Right?

10:08:59:02 [Tom Kohler]: I do wanna go back just a little bit and, and ask about your mom and your dad. Oh, yeah. What kind of work and just their impact on your life.

10:09:08:03 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah. I had wonderful parents. Both parents were wonderful. And my mother was a very loving person. She, you know, she, they were stay at home moms in those days. And she was a city girl. She grew up in the city, but she moved down to what was called, was called Bowleys Quarters because her sister had started a, a business, a restaurant, and a 'cause it was quite near the Chesapeake Bay, not on the Chesapeake Bay, but very near it. It was sort of in on the route. And so

10:09:43:02 she, my dad, you know, he teased about turning her into a, a country girl because she, we raised chickens. We grew vegetables to sell at the front door, you know, at the front yard. And my mom had to kill the chickens. I mean, she had a hatchet and a, it was, but this simple good lady cut their

10:10:09:04 heads off. My dad, his his real career was as a steel worker. So he worked on bridges and elevators and that kinds of thing. And then he retired eventually, and he worked as a construction consultant. But they were very good people, very simple, but, but religion was really part, especially of my mother's life. I mean, we just, we just grew up with it and we accepted it. And so,

10:10:45:03 and at that time, a lot of women, young women were entering religious life. Like 31 people, 31 women entered with me in 1959. But there are only, I think nine left. You know, the people, they, things happened and they

10:11:05:20 developed in different ways. And so a lot of people left.

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10:11:11:04 [Tom Kohler]: But you've not left.

10:11:12:10 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: No, I've not left. And I've been very happy, you know, and I never really had the desire to leave, you know, I, I've, I've, I've just been a, I've just been happy. That's all I can say. And everything that I've done.

10:11:29:01 [Tom Kohler]: And then how did you get from the Baltimore area to Savannah? How did that happen?

10:11:33:09 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Oh, well, I had a, quite a history of jobs or ministries. You know, I taught, I taught, taught young women in high school for 13 years. Then I had a ministry, a volunteer work at the city jail at, at the Baltimore City Jail for the women, the Women's Detention Center for eight years. Well, then I got, actually got a job with that,

10:12:03:09 with them. And I was paid to be a chaplain. And then I got elected to community leadership. And I did that for 15 years. And I had to leave the jail because I got, I got elected. It was a, it's, it's quite a different process. But anyway, I, I started community leadership and eventually became the head of the community. And in that role, I was on the board of

10:12:33:18 St. Joseph's Hospital here. At that time, it was just St. Joseph's. Sister Faith was the administrator. And anyway, I, I got to know St. Joseph's. Mr. Hinchey was hired during that time. It was a really interesting time. And we were still St. Joseph's. But then in 1997, Mr. Hinchey, we, we had the joint operating agreement. That's another story al to be glad to tell you about. But, but

10:13:06:13 Mr. Hinchey always tried to get me to come to Savannah. And I, I really liked it. I, I have to say, I had a lot of friends here and so on, and so I, I, I listened to him. But when I finished my leadership, you, you were elected for a certain time When I finished that, he, he started again, you

10:13:29:17 know, come to Savannah. And so that's when I came. That was in 2001.

10:13:36:02 [Tom Kohler]: Okay. Well, obviously being in the, being part of the Sisters of Mercy, I mean, that is in many ways who you are.. (Sr. Margie: Yes). As a person.

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10:13:43:18 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yes. Yes.

10:13:44:22 [Tom Kohler]: And I'd be curious, could you talk a little bit about the, you know, the Sisters of Mercy who founded them in sort of guiding principles. Can you help with, help us understand again, 'cause that certainly developed a great part of who you are as a person about the Sisters of Mercy and kind of their guiding principles and, and the founder particularly.

10:14:03:23 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Oh, yeah. The founder was a great woman. She founded the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland. And the official start date was 1831, but she was 45 years old at the time. So she was kind of, you know, she was considered an older lady, but she always had the desire to help, particularly the poor women and children that she saw in the streets. And she kind of got that started from her dad, who, who always was

10:14:37:16 attentive to, to, to the poor. And although he died when she was only five, he, he really, that idea never left her mind. And she always wanted to do something. And she wound up caring for an older lady who didn't have any children. She had a husband, but she had, I'm not sure what, what disease

10:15:06:04 she had, but she was an invalid, her name was Mrs. Callahan. And she, they, she lived with that couple for 20 years and took care of them, took care of her first, and she died.

10:15:20:17 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: And then Mr. Callahan and the lady was a Quaker. And, you know, speaking of, you know, inter reg, inter religion and interfaith, yeah, interfaith, excuse me. She, she really got the best of the Quaker, and she still had that Catholic heritage from her father. And Mrs. Callahan asked her to read her the scripture. And Catholics didn't read scripture in those days. Many people couldn't read in Ireland 'cause of the English laws. And so she heard the scripture that, that she read,

10:15:56:23 and that just sort of solidified her, her desire. Then both of them died, and lo and behold, they left their estate to her, and it was 25,000 pounds. But that was, that was only, I mean, in these these days, it would be about a million dollars. So she founded, she set up a house in Dublin, which

10:16:24:16 would be akin to building a house for the poor in Ardsley Park here in Savannah. I mean, it was a very lovely section. And she took in the women to educate them, well, first of all, to give them shelter. And, and, and she took them in the women

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to educate them and the children too, to be educated. There were a lot of orphans, of course. 'cause there was still widespread

10:16:52:03 disease. And she built this house on Baggot Street in London, and, you know, Lord, help me in Dublin. And you can imagine that it, that it really grew. And she didn't wanna be a sister. She didn't wanna be a religious community because in those days, you know, religious women were sort of locked up. I mean, they were cloistered, so they didn't get out much. But

10:17:22:11 she said her sisters, if she did this, would have to be walking nuns. And, you know, that's always kind of stuck with us, that we go out to where the need is and, you know, care for whoever needs it.

10:17:37:01 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: So she did, she went into the streets, they went into hospitals, prisons. There's a great stories about them, even the early ones. And a lot of the early ones, there were a lot of women who wanted to be religious or wanted to be part of this endeavor. And they, you know, they, they, they, they, a lot of them came to her. So she took them in, but a lot of them died because there was so much disease, cholera and to typhoid and that kind of thing. So she, she had a lot of requests from

10:18:15:17 other people in the, in the area to, to, to give, to come to their little town, to come to other places outside of Dublin. And so she eventually sent them out in little groups, and they called what started, what they called foundations. So in 1845, the Sisters of Mercy came to Savannah, and they

10:18:41:23 came from Dublin, of course, that were, excuse me, they came from Charleston. And they weren't technically Sisters of Mercy. They were the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy. They had the patron of our Lady of Mercy. And it's a kind of a complicated story, but the bishop, the bishop had gone to Catherine McCauley and asked him for sisters and the bishop of Charleston. Now this, that was the whole sort of all of Georgia and South Carolina. And

10:19:13:05 he was one, there was one bishop, and she said she just didn't have the sisters. So he, he started his own community called the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy. And they are the ones that came to Savannah in 1845. It's a great story. We have a kind of a rose window at St. Joseph's

10:19:37:18 Hospital that depicts the history of the Sisters of Mercy there. And so that got 'em started. They were, they were, they were well received.

10:19:53:01 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: And they did the same works. They did, they educated mostly children and took in orphans and young women who were, who needed

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education and education of things that they could earn a living. You know, they established them. They just, that's another thing about the sisters. They don't just give out, give out money or give out food. You know, they try, we say we, we address the causes of poverty. And so even

10:20:24:10 then they did that. And so from that foundation, which was 1845, and in 1875, this is going on to found St. Joseph's, they, this doctor in the city asked them if they would take care of the seamen who were sick. And they said, okay, that was a need. And so these sisters came from St. Vincent's

10:20:53:00 Academy on Liberty Street and walked down to East Broad, east Broad and Gordon Street, I think it was. And they, they were given a little house, an abandoned house of some kind. And they started caring for the sick there. And they, they didn't had a, they, they didn't have water in the house, of course, they had a, a well in the yard, and they had to care for the ones that were on the, in the upper

10:21:23:19 floor, in the attic by climbing a rope ladder. We, that's, that's kind of, you know, tradition. But I think it's true, they, they climbed a rope ladder to take up the medicine and food and to care for the, those patients on the floors. And, and unfortunately I think those were the Black patients, the African-American patients, but they took care of them, which is important. So they were there for a few months and it, it was, was quite a burden. So then they were given a larger spot. I'm not sure the exact

10:21:58:18 location of that, but was a few blocks away. And that's when they called it a hospital, St. Joseph's Infirmary.

10:22:09:09 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: And I just, this is a little addition, but from that grew St. Joseph's infirmary in Atlanta. See there were, whoever was, I guess the Bishop or the people in Atlanta who needed, needed care, needed a, a hospital. They said, give us, how about your sisters coming up and getting us started? I don't know if they said exactly that, but that was sort of the version. And so they did, and they, I think two sisters

10:22:42:23 went up and the, the legend of that is that now they had to travel. It takes us four hours now to go up there to Atlanta. But it took, it took them quite a long time, I'm sure. And they founded St. Joseph's Hospital. It was called St. Joseph's Infirmary. It was downtown in Atlanta. And now it's out, way out on up northeast side, I think it is. So, but, so they're sort of our, our children, you know, they're from St. Joseph's to St.

10:23:13:22 Joseph's Infirmary.

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- 10:23:16:17 [Tom Kohler]: You mentioned this rose window. (Sr. Margie: Oh yeah.) I mean, if, if I were to ask you to close your eyes and see that window in your mind, and what do you see?
- 10:23:29:13 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Oh, I see a rich history of, of what the sisters did and do are doing in Savannah. It's, it shows the, the typhoid epidemic and how they ministered to the sick and on the streets. It shows first their arrival from Charleston, then it shows that kind of thing. And just really how their work evolved all the way, like teaching children, teaching high school, St. Vincent's Academy has been there since 1845. Then
- 10:24:03:12 the St. Joseph's Hospital downtown, then the, the new St. Joseph's in 1970. And then the merger, or the JOA, the joint operating agreement, and then the kind of works we're doing today. So it's, it's real. It's quite beautiful
- 10:24:24:13 [Tom Kohler]: In, in more than one way. It's quite beautiful.
- 10:24:25:23 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah. And Sister Jude, who's since passed on to God was the person that gave me a lot of that information. She was a, she was a terrible loss when she died, because she knew all of the history, just, you know, right on her fingertips.
- 10:24:48:14 [Tom Kohler]: If we may, could you talk a little bit about St. Joseph's as a, as, you know, we've talked about sort of St Joseph's helped us with the history there. Could you talk a little bit more about St. Joseph's and how St. Joseph's over the, say the past 50 years has changed and, and grown?
- 10:25:07:23 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah. Well, healthcare has been a very dynamic organization, I'd say. And I think when we, we merged, we came together with Candler, that was a huge step. And now it, I can talk a little bit about that. That was a, that was a scary step. But, you know, I, I was, I was called the Provincial at that time. I was the person, the sister in charge. And I hadn't, I wasn't, I didn't work here then, and in
- 10:25:38:19 1997, so I had to come down here and work with the people who wanted to do the merger. And that's an quite an interesting story. I mean, the gentleman from Candler and St. Joseph's were kind of contemporary. Well, they were

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contemporaries and they were friends, so they were at a wedding reception, I understand. And they started to talk about what about if they merged, if

10:26:05:22 they came together and became one organization.

10:26:09:12 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: And there was, there was, you know, back and forth about it. And they said, they said they were smoking cigars, you know, at this wedding reception. And one of the men, Harvey Grainger, his son was a lawyer for the Baptist Hospital in Jacksonville. And he said his son was working for a joint operating agreement with, with Baptist and St. Vincent's, I think it is. Anyway, but it, he, but at that time it was, it

10:26:44:22 was thriving. They, it was just initiated. He said, we should talk to him and get it, get some information. So they did. And they, the fact that they were friends and that they saw the need, you know, St. Joseph's had a lot of resources in terms of the buildings and campus. So did, so did Candler. But they saw the need to come together to serve the people of Savannah.

10:27:14:13 And, and that's the thing that motivated me to not be afraid, be, first of all, I trusted them, but secondly, you know, I, I thought that they really, you know, they saw that fact that this was gonna make better healthcare for the people of Savannah. And in fact, it has, it's just been great.

10:27:40:04 [Tom Kohler]: Could you help me understand, have, did, have you had to sort of take sort of special care or to sort of accommodate these different faith traditions, you know, as you, as you run this facility now?

10:27:55:08 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah, at first, at first I think they thought we were gonna try to convert everybody to be Catholic. That that wasn't even in my mind. I didn't even think about it. But the, but you know, we got to know them. And this is really, this is the key to everything. We built relationships with those people, and they were good. They were all men. They were good men. And I was the only lady there. And

10:28:28:20 we, we just built good relationships. And eventually I think they came to trust me, the fact that, you know, I said, we, we wanted to do this for the good of Savannah, and, and it would be a local organization locally run, you know? And that has proven true today. So we did that. Now then, then subsequently they called me and said, you know, we're supposed to hire a

10:29:00:03 vice president for a mission, but we wanted to be a sister.

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- 10:29:04:03 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: And they, they couldn't find a sister. So they said, what can we do? And so then I went down and I met with them with, oh, I'm gonna have a hard time remembering his name, Archie Davis. And, and Cecil Abar and Jay Nangle, who's was the attorney for the hospital. And I, I think I just promised him that we wouldn't, we wouldn't try to convert people. So, and it has worked. I, I have to say the
- 10:29:39:13 Jacksonville merger that was, was pending, didn't, didn't work at all. It fell apart. But ours grew pretty easily. And I, maybe I'm naive, but I think it's worked very well. We have a strong presence of the Methodist Church. The director of pastoral care is the longtime Methodist minister, Reverend Burns. And we, we are very careful not to impose Catholicism on
- 10:30:10:11 them. And as a result, they, they respect, I think, you know, our leaders and our rules, which they had to work out all of that, you know, they respected. And there's that element of respect both ways today.
- 10:30:29:04 [Tom Kohler]: Let me ask, and I, you mentioned there were the, they were all men. Yeah. Yeah. And I'm imagining that a great part of your career, you've been at many tables where they were all men less now than in the past. Right. And since this is gonna be archived, I just wonder, can, you mentioned several of those good men. Can you just keep thinking of names, people, I mean, who was around those tables? Who, who were the, the men that were able to trust each other to go forward?
- 10:30:59:19 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah. Well, Arnold Tenenbaum was his man, a person I haven't mentioned before. He, oh, bless his heart, he was fantastic. And Archie Davis and Harvey Grainger, Lord, I'm gonna forget them. I don't, I didn't think I'd ever forget them. There were three on each side, what I shouldn't say on each side, but there were three representatives from each one. And, and Mr. Hinchey was there, of course.
- 10:31:30:16 [Tom Kohler]: How, how would you describe the role that Arnold played in that experience?
- 10:31:35:01 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Oh, he was a wise man. He, you know, I think now he was Jewish, but he, and I shouldn't say but, but he was, I just loved him and his wife,

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Lorelei, she was a dear. And they, they've both died now. They died. Died from Covid.

- 10:31:55:19 [Tom Kohler]: And, and ironically, where did they come for their medical care after they contracted Covid?
- 10:32:00:15 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Oh, yeah, St Joseph's/Candler. Yeah, I know. But he, he, it was the wisdom, the experience, the respect that he had earned because of his business. And I think his tolerance for, you know, all the people of Savannah, you know, that that was true of all of them. I'd say Cecil Abar was, oh gosh, he was delight, delight. But he was a little bit suspicious of us at first. Oh, didn't last long. And it turned
- 10:32:34:12 out he had to go to some Methodist conference, 'cause he was one of the leaders in the Methodist church, some Methodist conference in England. And so he was on a tour bus with, with the group that was, you know, invited to this meeting. And there was a Catholic bishop there. Well, then he told me, he came back, he said, guess what? There was a Catholic bishop on our tour bus. And I told him about you. And I told him about how we came together.
- 10:33:03:17 And he was so proud of himself. I mean, he really, really grew into that. He and his wife both. I mean, they, they, you know, there was an element of respect that, but it's the personal connection. That's the thing that does it. You, you know, you, he's, he was my friend and, and I, yeah, yeah.
- 10:33:27:08 [Tom Kohler]: What, what you're describing, let me ask this. Do, do you think that what you're describing does, is that still true in this modern world we're in now, this notion that you have to build trust and that you have to build relationship if you're going to move forward? Or is that, is that being given away, or do you still, do you believe that is still essential element?
- 10:33:53:03 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Well, I, I, I don't know if it's given way. I mean, our, our our world is tainted now with all kinds of division. So, but whether it is accepted or not, it works. It's the only thing that works. And the question that you, you know, you this on that paper that you might ask is about what, what I, we say to young people, that's what we gotta do. We gotta get them out of their isolated areas of experience and
- 10:34:29:13 to meet other people. And that's how they're going to, that's how their imagination, their, their respect is gonna grow only that person to person.

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- 10:34:41:20 [Tom Kohler]: And we'll come back to that. I look forward. Okay. That's great. No, and, and the good news about this, just so you know, these guys chop and dice all this. Yes.
- 10:34:49:04 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Right? Sure, sure, sure.
- 10:34:50:15 [Tom Kohler]: Yeah. Let's talk a little bit about, if we could, some of the other sort of healthcare providing entities in Savannah that, that have, over time St. Joseph's has been connected to and involved with, for example, Central of Georgia Railroad Hospital. I mean, let's talk about that.
- 10:35:13:03 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah. Now, of course that happened a while ago, but, and I wasn't there, but we did, we did a, a little class, it was called Leadership Academy, I think. And we, we put people in groups and we took those five hospitals and they, they researched each one. And I mean, that was now, that, that was the Candler part that, that, that brought them in. So when we merged, we, we took them too. Of course, they were already
- 10:35:45:16 there as Mary Telfair. Yeah. And Mary Telfair, you know, we have a special place for them in our hearts because they care... She cared for women. I don't know how much you know about Mary Telfair, but she was a very wealthy lady. She never married because she didn't want her husband to control her money. And when she died, she left her estate to the Telfair
- 10:36:19:10 Museum, but also to the care of women. And she established the Telfair Directresses, and there were no men. They're directresses. And that, that is passed down today, mostly wealthy women who have accepted the responsibility of the Telfair Hospital. And I mean, it's part of St. Joseph's/ Candler now, but I think that's a, she was not unlike Catherine
- 10:36:47:19 McCauley. I mean, she was rich and she took care of women and in her own way. So yeah, I know the most about her really, because I, you know, because she's a quite a leader and she, she acted on that.
- 10:37:08:03 [Tom Kohler]: We've talked a little bit about how healthcare has changed in this region. Would you mind helping us learn a little bit more about some of the ways that St. Joseph's has been part of that? I think of Georgia Infirmary, for example. I think of St. Mary's a little bit, maybe Good Samaritan. I know you know much

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more about these places than I do, but would you, would you mind just helping us kind of understand that?

10:37:30:06 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah, well the, the healthcare has developed into, you know, a whole different industry, industry now than it was originally. But I think Mr. Hinchey really, he got it that we had to be, you know, we had to be up to date and informed and, and even Sister Faith before him, we, when we had the Heart Hospital that began, and the care of people with heart attacks, you know, she was very involved in that. I'm

10:38:06:01 sorry, go back over the question.

10:38:07:18 [Tom Kohler]: Well, I need to take a water break.

10:38:10:04 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Oh, sure, sure, sure. Yeah, it's

10:38:11:08 [Tom Kohler]: A good idea. Yeah.

10:38:12:18 [Eric Darling]: You want to cut for a second, Tom? Yeah,

10:38:14:13 [Tom Kohler]: We, yeah. Okay,

10:38:15:09 [Eric Darling]: Let's do

10:38:15:21 [Tom Kohler]: That. I've got a little, and,

10:38:20:11 [Eric Darling]: Okay. Alright, great. And I'll allow him to settle.

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- 10:38:29:13 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: So the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy was Catherine McCauley. So we have McCauley Drive and yeah, the hospital we have, we have Mercy Drive and McCauley Boulevard. So it was in 1831. She was 45 years old, and she only lived 10 years after, after she established the Sisters of Mercy. So she, she was quite a leader, I think, in that at
- 10:39:02:06 some point there were something like 7,000 Sisters of Mercy. There aren't anymore, but she, and that was Dublin, Baggot Street is the name, and that building is still there. You can go there and you can even stay there, make a retreat or, and she's buried in the garden there, and there's a statue of her on, in the, in the, in the front of the building where she's, she has
- 10:39:30:14 welcoming a woman with a baby. So that's sort of symbolic of the kind of work that we do.
- 10:39:38:10 [Tom Kohler]: So this is a life of service.
- 10:39:41:02 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah, it is. It's, it is
- 10:39:44:08 [Tom Kohler]: Much of it. Before she became much of it, very personal, private service.
- 10:39:52:02 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah.
- 10:39:52:08 [Tom Kohler]: For the people that she took care of for 20 years.
- 10:39:54:22 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Right, right.
- 10:39:55:22 [Tom Kohler]: I mean, but it's a life of service, right? Her life.
- 10:39:59:07 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah. Yeah, yeah. That's, that's, I, I guess I just take that for granted. But, you know, that's important to remember. And in fact, this is interesting. The Sisters of Mercy take a fourth vow and the, it's a vow of service.

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We take three vows, the, the, you know, the canonical vows, poverty, chastity, and obedience. But we take a fourth vow, a service to the poor, sick, and uneducated.

10:40:32:07 [Tom Kohler]: Let's talk, if we could, we're going to kind of come back into the modern world, if, if you may. Yeah. Let's talk a little bit about some of the outreach programs that St. Joseph's has, you know, initiated over the years. And you'll know a lot more about these than I will. Yeah. Is Georgia Infirmary one that comes to mind?

10:40:51:00 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah, the Georgia Infirmary, we, we inherited, of course, but it's, it's a fantastic organization. It was founded by Thomas Francis Williams in 18. Yeah. Somewhere around in there. And it was founded as a rest home or hospital for sick African Americans, mostly slaves. And he, Thomas Francis Williams. The story there is that he,

10:41:26:16 he was, he wanted to see that a young, that a, that a, an overseer was persecuted or not persecuted, prosecuted for killing a Black man. And the court in those days was in the church. And he took this case to, to, to the church court. And they, they denied him. They said No, no. And eventually

10:41:53:08 they excommunicated him. And he was so angry that he founded, that's when he founded the Georgia Infirmary. And it became a quite a wonderful organization that cares for the poorest of the poor people who are on social security or have no social security.

10:42:16:13 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: A lot of people, Black people in those days, didn't pay into Social Security. So he, he took care of them and got what they needed and provided just care in their homes or care in the... And, and then it was a hospital for, I think a tuberculosis hospital eventually. And, and today, you know, you can meet some grandmothers that were nurses and had their training there, you know, or they were born there. I met a

10:42:50:02 man just one day. I was waiting for a ride at the, at a doctor's office, and I sat next to this man, and he said he had been in jail for a long time and he, he was an older gentleman, and he said, he came, he came back to Savannah and he said, you know, I was born at, at that hospital on Abercorn Street there. And he, he was, oh, he was, he was a nice man. He was outta

10:43:22:04 jail and he had a place to live, and I think he was affiliated with the Georgia Infirmary then,

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- 10:43:27:21 [Tom Kohler]: If I were to go to Georgia Infirmary on a Tuesday, what would I see?
- 10:43:32:01 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: You'd see the, the, well, the offices, first of all, a lot of the social workers that, you know, run the organization. And the director who's there, his name is John Albright, but also you would see the day sur... The Day Center. And the Day Center is a wonderful place where people who are very sick but need socialization come and they get a meal and they have activities and they're, they're, they have
- 10:44:04:17 transportation for them as well. And it's, it's a, it's a wonderful facility. There's all, there're also doctor's offices there so that the people who are the SOURCE patients can come and, and get their, you know, primary care.
- 10:44:21:15 [Tom Kohler]: Now SOURCE is gonna be a word that people aren't familiar with. And let's talk about the SOURCE program then.
- 10:44:25:20 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Alright. SOURCE is a Medicaid waiver program, and it's, it's a unique idea that instead of people state, instead of the state having to pay for their care in nursing homes, they pay for their care through this program. And it's, you know, it's, it's, it's given to them as a, as a waiver. So instead of, instead of a nursing home, they
- 10:44:57:09 get care home based and they provide other kinds of services. Like, you know, like the day surgery, I, I keep calling it day surgery, the daycare.
- 10:45:07:19 [Tom Kohler]: So the SOURCE program, this idea was to help people stay in their own homes rather than go to nursing homes. And the folks at Georgia Infirmary were the first people to figure out how to get the state to buy in on that and to fund it. And it's grown statewide.
- 10:45:28:03 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah. And as far as I know, Hunter Hurst was one of the, maybe the man, he, he's a fantastic gentleman who, he, he, he, he had Catherine McCauley's, lack of fear, you know, he had her, he, he understood what we were doing and, and I understood what he, I mean, it was, it was a mutual exchange there. And so, and he cared for, as you know,

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- 10:46:01:22 a lot of disabled people, mentally disabled, physically disabled, and still does. And they, they built the Williams Court Tower that's on Lincoln Street, and that's still, that's still for flourishing. And it's for people to live in their own apartments, but they have the advantage of the community that, that lives there. And most of them are elderly, but not all
- 10:46:33:12 there, you know, there are some of that are just disabled and that, that there's a waiting list, a constant waiting list for that place.
- 10:46:45:00 [Tom Kohler]: Also, maybe St. Mary's Community Center,
- 10:46:48:19 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Oh, Lord St. Mary's Community Center has been there for almost 25 years, believe it or not. And it happened that Mr. Hinchey wanted, he wanted some sisters to work at the hospital by, by the time he came, he, there were, there were sisters there, but they were older and they were, there weren't any young ones there. So he recruited, and I was a chief recruiter. It was hard because her were getting older. But anyway, he recruited two people, sister Pat Baber and Sister Donna Cowart
- 10:47:21:01 at the same time. And he said, you know, what do you wanna do? I just want you to work here. And they said, we'd like to work among the poor. So he said, good. Sister Virginia Gillis was here then. And she helped get them started. And they, they, they were put in the, or they were allowed to use the old St. Mary's School on West 36th Street. It was called Pure Heart of Mary was the
- 10:47:51:18 little church that's there. And when, when Pat and Donna went in there, I mean, there were birds had gotten into the, through the open windows, and it was an old school and it was a wreck. And they cleaned it up and worked on it. And a lot of people volunteered from St. Joseph's Hospital and Candler Hospital to get it started. And one of the things that happened is
- 10:48:21:08 that they decided, you know, they didn't know what the needs of the people were. So they, they were the walking sisters, literally. And they walked through the neighborhood for a long time.
- 10:48:34:19 [Tom Kohler]: And this would be the Cuyler-Brownsville neighborhood?
- 10:48:35:05 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Cuyler-Brownsville neighborhood. Yes. And asked them, you know, what do you think you need? And so they, they started some things and they, they worked, but some things they didn't, it didn't work very well. But

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ultimately they had a, a little preschool. But, but that didn't, that lasted all, I guess, a long time. But it, it, it's not there anymore because they have the other programs with the city schools

10:49:05:13 and so on. But one of the things they said that they needed was healthcare. And that was perfect because we were St. Joseph's/Candler. So Sister Pat started a little clinic, first of all, and this was another important person. His name is Chuck Powell. Did you ever know Chuck Powell? Yeah. No. Well, he had, he ran the cardiovascular council. And it was for, it was be,

10:49:35:12 it was to address a address, tuberculosis and, and other, other breathing diseases. And also stroke strokes. Excuse me. Yes, you're right. Stroke.

10:49:47:01 [Tom Kohler]: It seemed to me that, that Dr. Metts

10:49:49:04 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Dr. Metts (Tom: did some research) James Metts.

10:49:52:04 [Tom Kohler]: And that the, we were in the stroke belt.

10:49:55:03 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Right. That's exactly right. Okay. Yeah, that's exactly right. You got the, you got the story. Right. But anyway, they, they were, you know, they were operating down at the Georgia Infirmary. They had offices down there. And so Pat got together with Chuck and they set up this little clinic, and it was kind of primitive at first, and they got some nurses to do blood sugars and blood pressures. That was the big thing. And we worked with Chuck on, you know, going out, reaching

10:50:30:17 out to the barber shops, and we have the African Americans Men's Health Initiative that, with Mr. Shinholster. Yeah. He was a big friend of ours.

10:50:43:17 [Tom Kohler]: And that'd be Richards Shinholster?

10:50:44:08 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Richard Shinholster. Right, right. Couldn't call his name...

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10:50:47:12 [Tom Kohler]: Richard's home church

10:50:49:10 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Is

10:50:49:21 [Tom Kohler]: He would be Methodist.

10:50:51:01 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Oh, he, okay. Yeah. Yeah. See, you know, we don't think about what religion they are. I mean, I think that's, that was an important point. As I worked through those questions. You don't start out by saying, what religion are you? Because they're probably not, not Catholic. Most, most people aren't here. I think in Georgia, in the diocese, the southern half of Georgia, it's only 2.9% Catholic. So you don't start with that. You start with the person and what, what they, what

10:51:21:21 their needs are, what they have to offer you, and you know, how you can collaborate with them.

10:51:28:15 [Tom Kohler]: In my memory, one of the things about the community of Community Cardiovascular Council was that they kept good data. (Sr. Margie: Yes.) And it seems to me that they were actually able to prove (Sr. Margie: Yes.) That the work that they were doing, which was doing blood pressure work. (Sr. Margie: Right.) And, and, and Black barber shops. (Sr. Margie: Yeah.) Also, it seems to me, they used to put up a, if I remember right, they put up a, a lunchroom table in the mall

10:51:52:04 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Uh huh.

10:51:52:08 [Tom Kohler]: And do blood pressures like that. And I remember a story, I think this is of they did a blood pressure on a man and call an ambulance. Yeah. And just said, you, you have to go to the hospital. (Sr. Margie: Yeah.) I mean, it's like that.

10:52:05:17 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah. So that, you know, that has been one of the things that happened at St. Mary's Community Center is that the sisters knew that they had to

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collaborate with other people. And there was, I mean, they were good collaborators, but Sister Pat knew you didn't collaborate with everybody. You know, you had to make sure they were simpatico with your, your values. And she, she did that. So some people

10:52:36:12 would have all the best intentions, but she did. She said, no, thank you. But the Community Cardiovascular Council was one. She also worked with Savannah Tech because so many of their clients needed, you know, education that could be practical for them. She worked, we teased that. She worked with the IRS because she does, she

10:53:08:14 prepares taxes. For 20 years she's prepared taxes. And each year, no, well, not, well not each year, but every year, recent years, she's returned a million dollars to the city of Savannah for, you know, because the, the people who come to her, they need that money. So they spend it. And so it comes back to the city of Savannah, and she does about 500 taxes every,

10:53:38:12 every season. But she collaborates with St. Joseph's/Candler. Well, we are a St. Joseph's/Candler. She collaborates with the coworkers because coworkers, retired coworkers learn how to do it. And they come back every year and help her. (Tom: Gracious.) Yeah.

10:53:56:17 [Tom Kohler]: Now, is this the same sister Pat that's doing some death penalty work?

10:54:01:14 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: No, that was Sister Pat Brown, I think. Yeah. There were three sister pat's for a while. Sister Pat Kennedy, sister Pat Brown, and Sister Pat Baber. But I'm talking about Sister Pat Baber. She's the Director of the, of St. Mary's Community Center. And St. Mary's, now St. Mary's Health Center and Good Samaritan Clinic.

10:54:25:01 [Tom Kohler]: Well, I'm glad we got our Pats straight.

10:54:26:09 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yes.

10:54:27:22 [Tom Kohler]: Right. Other outreach and other collaborations that you could, you'd like to make sure we hear about?

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- 10:54:35:21 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: I trying to think. Well, you know, during the, during the COVID, we collaborated a lot with the Black churches, the African American churches, and would go, you know, to their services and try to reach the people to offer them the vaccines. And got their pa... We
- 10:55:06:05 had a couple of meetings with their pastors who, you know, we could, we wanted to make sure they were on board, and then they would, would help convince their parishioners it was okay to get this, this, this vaccine. Oh, good Lord. We, we, the city schools, we've, we've partnered a lot with them. They, we started a, oh lord, a program to get people interested in
- 10:55:37:15 nursing and nursing assistance at Beach High School. We, let me see. And we, we've been part of the different agencies that have grown up to help address poverty in, in the city. Like Step Up Savannah with the neighborhoods sister Pat was very involved in that, that Savannah Safety
- 10:56:08:14 Net. We're no longer a part of that.
- 10:56:10:11 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: But we were, we were involved, especially in the beginning when Dr. Diane Weems was in charge of that. We, we made a lot of good connections through that at that time. Oh. And now we have, with the city of Savannah, we have a home ownership program, and there's an organization called, I think it's C-H-S-A. I always forget the, how the number, the, the letters go with the director is a lady named Anita Smith
- 10:56:43:03 Dixon, who's a dynamo. And basically she had a program with the City of Savannah employees whereby they coach them and try to help them get people who wanna buy their own homes in Savannah and around the area of Savannah. And she would, she had, she hired people who were experts at these free
- 10:57:12:01 loan programs with mostly federal, they were federal, and they would provide down payments. And she looked, she wanted to look for other big employers in the city who would buy into that program. And so we, St Joseph's/Candler was very interested. So each year we give, we started out giving a little piece of money, like \$5,000 and now \$15,000.
- 10:57:41:12 We gradually increased it, but I think something like 45 of our employees have been able to buy their own homes. And that collaboration is a great one with the city of Savannah. They're, they're, they're our clear partners. In fact, before Mayor Johnson, Van Johnson was elected, we were at one of the city council meetings and to present this check that we were

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10:58:10:11 gonna get. And he, he just, this councilman recited our mission, He said, rooted in God's love, we treat illness and promote wellness for all people. I almost fainted because, you know, unless you're in it every day, you don't usually think of the mission statement. But he did.

10:58:31:15 [Tom Kohler]: Speaks well of both.

10:58:32:03 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yes. Yes.

10:58:33:11 [Tom Kohler]: It really does. I'm guessing that other people and other organizations have noticed this partnering and, and the, this cooperation and this ability to notice what needs to be done and find a way to respond to it that we've been hearing about. Have, I mean, have there been a national, has there been recognition nationally or regionally that's, that's noticed some of this work? Or are we gonna be the first

10:59:07:00 person, first people to actually hear about all of it kind of at one time?

10:59:11:06 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah. Well, we, we've been recognized very, it was very exciting. In two, in 2004. In 2004, should I go on

10:59:23:06 [Eric Darling]: For a second?

10:59:24:16 [Tom Kohler]: No, sorry.

10:59:26:08 [Eric Darling]: We'll keep it rolling. Okay.

10:59:28:00 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: In 2004.

10:59:29:05 [Eric Darling]: One sec. Sorry.

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10:59:30:09 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Okay.

10:59:31:19 [Eric Darling]: Just so we get, Mickey, you gonna stay out? I get something off the bookshelf. Yeah, sorry. No problem.

10:59:44:17 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Hello. Sorry. That's okay. Don't

10:59:46:07 [Tom Kohler]: Worry about it.

10:59:47:02 [Eric Darling]: Excuse us. I probably had everything. It's probably better to

10:59:49:13 [Tom Kohler]: No, no. Hey, no, we, we can use the break. Yeah,

10:59:52:20 [Eric Darling]: Let's cut for a sec. Okay. Ready when you are. Thank you. And as soon as Mickey sits, you can go. Tom, (Mickey: I'm down.) Anytime.

11:00:11:11 [Tom Kohler]: I know there are a couple of more or efforts that St. Joseph's has been involved in that you'd like to share, we'd love to hear about that.

11:00:19:12 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Well, the one thing that has happened with all of these projects is that our coworkers have been involved in helping with them. I mean, they, they're sort of proud of what we do. But we have one group called The Angels of Mercy that is still functioning. We meet every month. And they started when the Olympics were in Savannah, and Brian Griffin, I believe, was the person that started them. And so he

11:00:51:16 gathered volunteers to, to help with the Olympics. And then the group continued looking for, basically they do one work of Mercy every month. They, they go to Williams Court. They love going there. Everybody loves that. They go to the Savannah City mission downtown. They help with parties for children that maybe don't have parties very often. They like, we're

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- 11:01:23:02 going to Our Lady of Lords to the Hispanic community tomorrow, Sunday. Not, not tomorrow, but Sunday.
- 11:01:30:07 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: But the Angels of Mercy are a group of men and women, and they do all kinds of things in the health system. They, you know, they are, there's a nurse, there's, you know, of course Brian and Mission Services people, and they get together and find out what's needed in this town. And then they make effort. Somebody takes charge, they're the person who's in charge of the, of the activity and gets all the information and brings it back to the group. Then we ask, ask the, the people in the in
- 11:02:05:06 who work, who work at St. Joseph's candle to, to bring it in whatever they need. Like one of the things we do is collect toiletries for children during the summer that, that have, there they're maybe homeless or don't have the money to buy, especially young teenagers that don't have the, the resources to buy what they need. And we collect those. And then we have a connection, another connection
- 11:02:33:16 with the city schools. One of the social workers who used to be used to work for us. Now she's the point person for that. So the Angels of Mercy do amazing things. They refurbish, they, in the beginning, we had, we worked with Building Together, Rebuilding Together and spent, we had teams that went out every Saturday for a couple of weeks, helping people with needing
- 11:03:03:05 painting and repairs to their house. And we had a good time. I mean, it builds, it builds the, you know, the camaraderie, if that's word that among the, among the coworkers.
- 11:03:14:18 [Tom Kohler]: And are we talking about 10 people or a thousand people, or 80 people? How, how big is, is this?
- 11:03:20:05 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Well, the, the Angels of Mercy has a, has a, a board. It's about about about 10 people or maybe 12. And we meet every month, but they're not the only ones that do the work. So on Sunday, when we go to Our Lady of Lords, you know, with the Hispanic children there, there'll be probably 30 or 40 people (Tom: gracious.) Depends on what the, on what the, yeah.
- 11:03:48:07 [Tom Kohler]: And then you'd also mention the African American Center.

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- 11:03:51:11 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Okay. The African American Resource Center was started when, before I came here, but it was started by Mr. Hinchey and a man named Dr. Allen Zow, who was the attorney for Savannah State. And he, he's not there. And he's not there right now, but, you know, he was, he was saying this was, this would've been 1998, I guess around there, 99. And he was saying, you know, the African American community doesn't have, have,
- 11:04:24:23 have computers, so they miss out on a whole lot. And so he wanted to start an agency that, that addressed the digital divide. And they, they were very successful in transforming a pharmacy on Abercorn Street and into the African American Health Information and Resource Center. So it provides
- 11:04:52:14 health information and resources for that community, or anyone who comes through the doors. They have, they have a bank of computers that people can use, where they can do their resumes or whatever they need to do.
- 11:05:08:12 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Or the lady who's in charge at the director, Ella Williamson, she, she started a website called, so, and I wanna get it wrong, oh, I can't remember the name of it, but it's a website for, for giving you all the information, whatever it is, whatever you need. Like for example, if you needed a, a doctor for your baby, you know, you could, you
- 11:05:42:04 could look that up and they would list all the doctors that are available, the ones that take Medicaid, the ones that don't. It gives you complete information and it's kept up to date. It's a, it's called Hero. I remembered Hero Help Me is is the name of the website. So that's a big advantage there.
- 11:06:04:05 [Tom Kohler]: Well, as, as we've talked, it's clear that the St. Joseph's/Candler Health System has reached out into many different parts of the community and has crossed many boundaries in terms of how people see themselves connected to a faith home in terms of race, income, class, et cetera. That just, you can't listen to this and not notice that. I'm curious, have other people noticed this? Have you received recognition,
- 11:06:34:16 recognition about some of this work from, you know, national or regional partners or that sort of thing?
- 11:06:41:10 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah, we received a really big honor in 2004. It's called the Foster McGaw Prize. And how much money did we get? We, we got a, we got money a, a, you know, a prize, a for the, for the recognition. And that's a national

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ward given by the American Hospital Association, AMA. So it was, it was a big deal. And then in 2014, 13, I

11:07:14:16 think 13. We received from the Catholic Health Association, which we're members of, we received their recognition award for our outreach efforts. And they came to St. Mary's particularly, and were impressed with the, with the co, with the collaboration with Savannah Tech and, and just generally that, that that whole operation and what it was, and they received, we

11:07:48:04 didn't receive money there. We received this huge plaque of Jesus that we, we were disappointed really, because they, it was insured for \$3,000, but Pat said he didn't, we could, we'd rather have the money. Don't give us a plaque. But anyway, we, we, we were, we were honored by that for of course.

11:08:14:19 Yeah. That's a national award too.

11:08:17:10 [Tom Kohler]: Well, since we're talking about these national awards, et cetera, I do want to ask just a, a little bit different question, which is, as, as medicine has become increasingly corporatized and as the providers of corporatized medicine continue to swallow each other up and grow and become giants, I mean, how do, how do you think about that given the way that you and the health system think about its, its

11:08:49:01 mission?

11:08:51:07 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah, we, I think our, our organization has capitalized on the fact that we are locally owned and locally governed. So, you're right, we're not a part of a big system. And they have sort of put some pressure on us to join a big, in the past, this not recently, to join a big system. And the Sisters of Mercy Hospitals are largely in these big

11:09:22:05 systems now. Mercy Hospital Baltimore is, is not either. And they are, they, they're a perfect example of collaboration. And they get, they have their doctors involved. I mean, and they're right in the city of Baltimore. They're not in the suburbs. So Mercy Hospital and St. Joseph's/Candler are alike in that they're locally owned and locally governed. And it works for

11:09:52:07 us. I don't know that it could work for everybody, but it, it, it works for us. And I remember when we were doing the, doing the negotiations, you know, the, when, when they, when the men found out that your money would have to go to Philadelphia, that did it. You know, they, they, they wanted to take care of their own money in Savannah. So, excuse me. So, you know,

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11:10:28:16 it's that, it's that value of it, be it locally owned and locally governed. That has worked for us. It's worked very well for us.

11:10:38:16 [Tom Kohler]: Absolutely. Would you have any other thoughts about why working across faith tradition boundaries is important?

11:10:46:13 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Oh Lord. Absolutely. I mean, it's just so rich. It is so rich that you're not closed in on your own people. That you, you look out and you, you know, you know this person and that probably, like Arnold Tenenbaum is an example, my lord. He, he was a wonderful man and very devoted to St. Joseph's/Candler. And, and we learn a lot about the, how the Methodists operate, and they learn a lot about us. And we, we

11:11:19:04 respect that. I mean, that, that respect is, it's, it's so important.

11:11:26:07 [Tom Kohler]: And then I know you're a former teacher. What would you say to kids today to sort of help them see this? That we have to find ways to look beyond our own bubble, if you will?

11:11:38:01 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah. You know, I think they have to be educated, you know, with their brains. But I think they have to also experience. And, you know, I remember one time it was just, hang

11:11:52:20 [Mickey Youmans]: On for just one second. Could you just please use the word kids when you start that? 'cause they,

11:11:58:19 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Okay. Oh yeah, okay, sure. I apologize. No, no. Okay. As far as the, as the future and the kids that are, we're trying to educate now that, that education is a big thing, but also I think experience for them. I remember I have three, I have three nephews. They were little, little boys then. And I had, my dad grew vegetables, we had tons of tomatoes. And I, I was gonna take him into the city to a house

11:12:30:02 called Emmaus House that, you know, fed the poor. And so we went in and, and the boys came with me and they, they looked around and it was a row house in Baltimore City. Looked around, they said, where's their yard? I said, they don't

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have a yard. Where do they play? They play on the street a lot of times. They, you know, now see, I'm sure they remember that, but I'm

11:12:59:00 not suggesting that we take them all in the city. But if you can provide experiences of real life people and real children that would be their peers, but are different from them, and prepare them for it. Prepare them what, what they're gonna learn. And I mean, that's one thing I can suggest. And to put them in situations where they are exposed to those other children.

11:13:29:13 [Tom Kohler]: Let me ask you one other question, if I may. How, how do you think about the difference in what might be thought of as good works and social justice? Or is there a difference?

11:13:46:03 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: No, no. I, I mean, I think, well, if I understand the words that you're using, you know, I think there are, lemme see, I, I certainly believe in social justice, but I think the way you can, people can be converted to do social justice is through the experience. You know, with people like the migrants for example. Those are a big group that

11:14:24:13 we, I particularly, and, and other people of course and the organization are very attentive to and their plight and all the bad press they get. But once you know the stories there, there is a, there's a saying, and I, I can't remember who said it, but it says, there is no one you cannot love

11:14:49:01 once you've heard their story. Once you've heard their story, there's nobody you can't love. And maybe you could say there's no one you can't respect. But...

11:15:01:17 [Tom Kohler]: So it sounds like for you, it, it's, I mean it's, it's, it's a wheel, if you will. I mean, good works allows people to come in contact with one another. And as people come in contact with one another, some people come to consciousness, to a certain conscience about what's going on and about what needs to go on. And that's where the social action emerges. It sounds like that's what you're helping me understand that. (Sr. Margie: Yeah), yeah. That there's an experience or a moment or

11:15:31:18 something happens with someone through the experience of another person, and then that opens their eyes to the bigger picture, the environment, the policy.

11:15:41:15 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Right. I, you know, I, I, I experienced that, especially in the jail when I worked in the jail, because the young women who were locked up

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were there, mostly because they couldn't afford the bail. Some of them had done, they were accused of terrible crimes, but most of them weren't accused of terrible crimes. They had a small bail, but they didn't have that small bail, so they stayed locked up. And then when they went to court, they got time served, and so they got cut loose, and then they came back. And, you know, well, before I came to St.

11:16:16:22 Joseph's/Candler, I worked, we started a, a house for women called Marian House. And to take care of that very need so that people didn't, women didn't have to come back to jail. That's been very successful. Not because of me, but because, you know, the people who have worked there subsequently.

11:16:36:10 [Tom Kohler]: Just one other question, because this is so interesting because in Savannah right now, I mean, there's an organization that's worked really hard in the past couple of years to try to figure out this cash bail issue.

11:16:47:12 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yes, yes. And,

11:16:48:17 [Tom Kohler]: And quite frankly, they've been clobbered. So how, how did, how do you someone who was working or volunteer working in jail in what year?

11:16:58:14 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: 1970? No, wait. Nine. I finished there in 1985. So I was from seven, eight years, 77, I guess I went

11:17:07:13 [Tom Kohler]: In the late seventies until now. So that's like the seventies, the eighties, the 90, 50 plus years. Same issue, same struggle. I mean, how do you maintain your sense of hope and possibility and optimism?

11:17:22:20 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: I think one or two people at a time is, is the only thing. And, and, you know, just to, just to, like we did there, I mean, at Marian House, for example, now, the place that that got started with me, with the work, that, that was a collaboration with a whole bunch of agencies. The, the church who didn't want us in their neighborhood, you know, all kinds of people who didn't want us in their neighborhood, but we, we did find a place. And they, they take each woman and they try to help

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- 11:17:57:23 find out what her needs are. It's often, it's children. They have children, they're drug addicted or alcohol addicted, and they give them what they need, you know, five or 10 or 15 or 20 at a time. And then they, they graduate into second stage housing and finally they get their own home.
- 11:18:19:10 It's, it's, you know, it's the perseverance, not giving up. I mean, that's one thing I see, but you know, this, in those days, you know, people were more open to helping them than they are now. I mean, they're not prisoners or, you know, it, it's horrible. The the number of people that die in our prisons today because, or people that don't even belong in prisons. And those girls in the jail that I, that I minister to,
- 11:18:56:10 they were not all that different from the girls I taught at Mercy High. They were young girls. In fact, one time I was on the elevator at Mercy Hospital and this girl got on and she said, and I knew her. I, I knew her, but I couldn't remember if I taught her or she was locked up. So she said, do you, are you still working down there? And she pointed the jails near, right near. And I said, oh, no, I'm doing something different. But that's
- 11:19:23:05 how I, you know, you just, they were the same and they needed the attention and just the care that, that no, they were, they were not getting
- 11:19:34:03 [Tom Kohler]: Well, if, if I were to say that in listening to you, one thing that comes to my mind is that what we need to invite people to do is find a way to make a difference. And if people will do that, they will become different and the world will become different as well.
- 11:19:54:05 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Amen. That's right. Yeah. I mean, it's, we, we have to be brave enough to stand up for the right thing, the, the, the good. And I mean, if you take the scripture, you know, the, the Catholic scripture or the Christian Scripture rather, Matthew 25, you know, with what, how you're gonna be judged, how you're gonna be judged with, with these basic things, feeding people, visiting the sick. Yeah. I mean, I
- 11:20:29:04 think we believe that that's can happen if we, if we persevere, if we don't give up,
- 11:20:40:05 [Tom Kohler]: I think this might be a good time for us to give up. 'cause that's a perfect ending in my mind.
- 11:20:45:03 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Oh, thank you. That
- 11:20:46:03 [Tom Kohler]: We don't give up.
- 11:20:46:19 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: No, no, no. Yeah. Yeah.
- 11:20:49:09 [Tom Kohler]: Well, thank you.
- 11:20:50:02 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: You're welcome.

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- 11:20:51:01 [Tom Kohler]: It's been really very powerful.
- 11:20:54:00 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Oh, you're welcome. I'm so glad to have met you. Finally, Hunter talked about you all the time.
- 11:21:00:01 [Tom Kohler]: I gave Hunter a lot of trouble.
- 11:21:03:10 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: (laughs) And
- 11:21:03:16 [Tom Kohler]: Well, hunter and, and Hunter and I collaborated to your point about collaboration. I mean the, the Medicaid waiver program.
- 11:21:09:04 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yep, yep.
- 11:21:10:14 [Tom Kohler]: I mean, we, yeah, I mean, yeah, Gary, well, oddly enough, and interestingly enough, Sheldon Tenenbaum that I think about,
- 11:21:17:08 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Oh really? Lee
- 11:21:18:03 [Tom Kohler]: Sheldon was a citizen advocate for a man named Gary Foss. And Gary, let's just say knew Hunter very well and, and was a very complicated guy. But getting the state of Georgia to open that Medicaid waiver program up was really, Sheldon went and used his social capital Yeah. With Jim Ledbetter. And then Hunter down here was, you know, the, in, it was outside ball, inside ball, you know, Sheldon was doing outside Ball. Hunter was doing Inside Ball. And that's how the whole Medicaid waiver
- 11:21:49:05 program finally came to Georgia. So, wow. So, and, and, but again, just tie back to Arnold and the Tenenbaum family.
- 11:21:55:02 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah. Oh yeah.
- 11:21:55:13 [Tom Kohler]: Oh, that's amazing.
- 11:21:57:12 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah. How about it? (Tom: Yeah.) You, you, you know, I don't know if you remember this lady, but she, she was one of Pat's sister Pat's clients. Her name was Dolores.
- 11:22:06:07 [Tom Kohler]: Oh, Dolores Wilson.
- 11:22:06:23 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah. Yeah. And she, she lived in the Summit, the house. (Tom: Absolutely.) Oh gosh.
- 11:22:10:19 [Tom Kohler]: Delightful.
- 11:22:11:17 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: We loved her.

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- 11:22:12:18 [Tom Kohler]: Yep, yep. I saw Richard Lane last night at the music festival, you know, who had been her advocate for 15 years. Yeah, yeah. And he did, what was, we called a kitchen table financial management. He went over to her apartment every month and they did the bills together and all that. And that's how it started. And then when the hurricane, one of the hurricanes came, Dolores evacuated with Richard instead of having to evacuate
- 11:22:35:06 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Oh!
- 11:22:36:05 [Tom Kohler]: On a public bus. And this time, you know, they, Richard lived on 65th and Abercorn in a lovely mid-century modern home. And, and when I would tell that story, I would say they lived an eighth of a mile and worldss apart. (Sr. Margie: Yep.) Yeah. But then they found each other, so Yeah.
- 11:22:54:19 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah. Sister Pat has great stories about, about Dolores. Oh, yeah. Because she, she worked there for a while, you know, which was Yeah.
- 11:23:04:07 [Tom Kohler]: Which she appreciated and enjoyed so much. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.
- 11:23:09:00 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Oh, yeah. And see, we, we had people from St. Joseph's/Candler who visited her, her when she'd be in the hospital and, you know, take her to things and, and Menzanna Blakly, do you know Menzanna? (Tom: I don't think I did.) Yeah. She's our event planner. (Tom: Okay.) She's a great woman. And she took a special interest and they taught her to read some Cat In The Hat.
- 11:23:32:19 [Tom Kohler]: Yeah,
- 11:23:33:00 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Well, Green Eggs. Green Eggs and Ham. I remember.
- 11:23:35:14 [Tom Kohler]: And that's, and, and I remember Dolores, that was a thing for her. She wanted to, yeah. And a great example of someone that was never schooled because people assumed she could not be educated. (Sr. Margie: Yeah, yeah.) Because of her label.
- 11:23:48:07 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah. Yeah. We had women in the jail like that. I had, I mean, I, we, they, they had, you had 25, I think 25% of the people who were locked up in the women's detention center, at least were psychiatric patients. But some of them were great. They were characters. You could write a book about 'em. There's one called Ethel Ethel Perez. She said, I'm a mistake. She said, my mother told me I was a mistake, but she
- 11:24:21:06 was a great, she got me into more trouble, but she, yeah.
- 11:24:27:18 [Tom Kohler]: Good trouble. I'm sure.

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- 11:24:28:21 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Some good trouble. Yeah. Oh my God. One day she, she was, she could get really angry and she was, she wasn't locked up anymore. And she came in to visit somebody and she was mad. And I was gonna go out and try to calm her down. And the officer said to me, don't you dare. She wouldn't, she just wouldn't let me. She said, you don't, she's, she could kill you. 'cause she was big. I said, she, that's, I know that's Delore. I mean, that's Ethel. But anyway, she, she got hit by a guy, a car
- 11:25:01:02 crossing the street one day, going to get cigarettes.
- 11:25:05:12 [Tom Kohler]: So let me ask, did, did you know Mary O'Brien here?
- 11:25:10:00 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Oh Yes. Yeah.
- 11:25:11:23 [Tom Kohler]: We're gonna interview her daughters.
- 11:25:14:19 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Oh, oh, that's, she is the niece of Sister Angela Everwine. She's one of her ne their nieces. Okay.
- 11:25:23:03 [Tom Kohler]: Yeah,
- 11:25:24:04 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Yeah,
- 11:25:24:15 [Tom Kohler]: Yeah, yeah.
- 11:25:26:12 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Now this is Jane, it's Jane's mother, Jane's daughter.
- 11:25:31:05 [Tom Kohler]: Wait up.
- 11:25:32:09 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Mary O'Brien.
- 11:25:33:02 [Tom Kohler]: Mary O'Brien. Her, her, the daughters that I know are Ann O'Brien Fuller and Helen O'Brien, and then Rob and Pat O'Brien. So Mary, I guess would be in her nineties.
- 11:25:45:02 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Oh, no.
- 11:25:45:16 [Tom Kohler]: I mean, she's passed away. So she was, to my experience, very active as a, as a, a lay person, but, but very active in both good works and social justice. Yeah.
- 11:25:58:03 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: No, it's not the same person. Okay. Yeah. Anyway. Yeah. But, but, but Jane O'Brien was, she's in, she was a very, her husband's named Pat too. Pat O'Brien. Okay.
- 11:26:09:16 [Tom Kohler]: Mary O'Brien said was a husband, was Tom O'Brien, who was a CPA who died of a heart attack early. And so she raised, you know, I mean, you, she raised eight kids as a single mom. Wow.

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11:26:18:22 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: All that. And then, wow,

11:26:20:13 [Tom Kohler]: We kind of, when she got the kids out of the house, then she turned her attention to the larger community through her, through, through her eyes as a, as a, as a Catholic. Yeah. And I think she might be the oldest white person maybe ever arrested for civil disobedience in Chatham out of Chatham County. (Sr. Margie: Good girl.) She was arrested I at Kings Bay when she was 80, you know, so anyway. Yeah. That's great. Mm. Well, thank you

11:26:46:12 [Sr. Margie Beatty]: Again. This Thank you, Tom. Thank you so much. Thank you guys. Thank you. I didn't give you too much trouble and I didn't pay attention to you. No, you, to your, you did wonderful directions rockstar.

11:26:57:04 [Mickey Youmans]: You be wonderful. Watch out for this thing over here. Oh.