

SARASOTA MEMORIAL
HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION
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NEWS RELEASE

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**William L. and Josephine B. Weiss Family Foundation
gift to the Healthcare Foundation funds
Aquapheresis Ultrafiltration Therapy System at SMHCS**

SARASOTA – Sarasota Memorial Healthcare Foundation, Inc. Trustee William L. Weiss and his wife, Josephine, provided \$30,650 in funding from the William L. and Josephine B. Weiss Family Foundation for the Healthcare Foundation to purchase the Aquapheresis Ultrafiltration Therapy System for Sarasota Memorial Health Care System (SMHCS). The cart-mounted system is used to treat heart failure inpatients and outpatients with fluid overload, by reducing excess salt and fluid and ultimately reducing the length of patient stay and re-admission rates for heart failure related diseases.

While approximately 5 million people in the U.S. suffer from heart failure, it is responsible for more than 1 million hospitalizations and 300,000 deaths a year. Heart failure is a serious condition in which the heart is unable to pump enough blood throughout the body causing blood and fluid to back up into the lungs and buildup of fluid in the feet, ankles and legs.

Benefits of this equipment include immediate and predictable removal of excess fluid; no clinically significant change to blood pressure, heart rate or electrolyte balance; and the filtered blood returns to the veins using a closed pressurized system. It is estimated that this treatment will save the hospital approximately \$46,000 per year.

Grants made by the Healthcare Foundation support patient care, research, education, technology and facilities at Sarasota Memorial Health Care System and throughout the community.

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