On October 1, 2009 a formal Collaboration Agreement was signed by the leadership of Padre Pio’s hospital in Italy (Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza) and Catholic Healthcare International.

Key Collaboration Points:

- **Parties to the Agreement:**
  - Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza (CSS) – Established by Padre Pio, his “Work”, Vatican owned, & based in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy.
  - Catholic Healthcare International (CHI) – U.S. nonprofit with the vision to implement these collaborative initiatives with CSS.
  - Signed By: Cardinal (Archbishop) Raymond Burke (Prefect, The Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura), Dott. Domenico Crupi (President & General Director, CSS), Msgr. Vernon Gardin (Director, CHI) & Jere Palazzolo (President & Director, CHI)

- **Objectives of The Collaboration Initiatives:**
  - Duplicate Padre Pio’s Home For The Relief of Suffering (CSS) in the United States and other areas around the world.
  - Emulate the structure, name, operation, organization, etc. as closely as possible to that of Padre Pio’s Casa.
  - Maintain absolute loyalty to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.
  - Operate the new network of Casa’s as “Clinics for the Body & the Soul” for our “guests” (From the words of Padre Pio).

Phase I Casa USA Initiatives (2 Years):

- **Eastern Kentucky/Diocese of Lexington:**
  - Duplicate Padre Pio’s Church, Santa Maria Delle Grazie, as pilgrim shrine in Kentucky
  - Identify cloistered religious order and implement perpetual adoration of the Eucharist at pilgrim shrine
  - Expand Catholic physician practice network to ten clinics to care for those in need in the region
  - Recruit initial leadership team
  - Planning & infrastructure development for Casa USA hospital & faithful Catholic medical school

Our Vision

"The Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza should therefore be the first link in a great chain. It should be the model for many other, innumerable Casa’s with the same name and above all the same spirit, which must bring love to all of humanity. A program which would make us tremble with awe, if it was not inspired by God who is above all love!"

- Dr. Guglielmo Sanguinetti – A Founder & Padre Pio’s Director of Implementation for CSS
  (Excerpt from the July 1950 issue of La Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza)