People

Mercy in Durango Celebrates 125 Years of Caring for the Community

More than 100 people gathered at Mercy Regional Medical Center, Durango, Colo., on June 30 to celebrate the hospital’s 125th anniversary. The highlight of the day was the opening of a time capsule recovered from the cornerstone of a patient wing added to Mercy Hospital in 1952. The 55-year-old capsule contained religious medals, a written history of the hospital, a list of building project donors, a fundraising campaign brochure, newspapers, photos of the physicians and the Sisters of Mercy who worked at the hospital, and other small treasures. Some of the items will be sealed in a new time capsule to be placed at the hospital in September, and some may be displayed on the medical center’s Wall of History. For more information, contact David Bruzzese of Mercy at davidbruzzese@mercydurango.org.

Joanne Spina, chair of the Board of Directors of Mercy Regional Medical Center, carefully opened a time capsule found in the cornerstone of a wing added to Mercy Hospital in 1952.
Mission and Ministry Fund Presents Grants for Building Healthy Communities

Catholic Health Initiatives’ Mission and Ministry Fund has awarded 13 grants totaling more than $3 million as part of its commitment to building healthy communities across the country and around the world. “A year ago, we met the goal of establishing a principal of $100 million for the Mission and Ministry Fund, which was a tremendous achievement for our system,” said Kevin Lofton, president and chief executive officer of Catholic Health Initiatives. “Now, we look forward to expanding our efforts to create innovative ways to bring about significant improvements in the health of the communities we serve, both in the U.S. and abroad.”

Five Catholic Health Initiatives Hospitals Participating in New National Cancer Institute Program

Five Catholic Health Initiatives hospitals are participating in the pilot phase of a new program of the National Cancer Institute. The program will help bring state-of-the-art cancer care and research to patients in community hospitals across the U.S. The initiative will provide thousands more Americans with access to a system of high-quality cancer care and provide care to more patients where they live.

Mary Chiles Hospital Becomes Part of Saint Joseph

Mary Chiles Hospital, Mt. Sterling, Ky., officially transitioned to Saint Joseph HealthCare, Lexington, Ky., on August 1. The 63-bed, nonprofit, acute care hospital will be renamed Saint Joseph Mount Sterling. The agreement will also result in a new, replacement hospital expected to be complete within three years. The two organizations have been in exclusive discussions since September 2006, when Mary Chiles Hospital first approached Saint Joseph to explore a potential relationship.
Mary Chiles Hospital, Mt. Sterling, Ky., officially transitioned to Saint Joseph HealthCare, Lexington, Ky., on August 1. The 63-bed, nonprofit, acute care hospital will be renamed Saint Joseph Mount Sterling. The agreement will also result in a new, replacement hospital expected to be complete within three years.

The transition resulted from months of negotiations and due diligence work. The two organizations have been in exclusive discussions since September 2006, when Mary Chiles Hospital first approached Saint Joseph to explore a potential relationship.

“This affiliation with Mary Chiles is consistent with Saint Joseph’s bold vision that was established in our recent strategic plan,” said Gene Woods, president and chief executive officer of Saint Joseph. “Our goal is to work in partnership with hospitals in surrounding communities to develop innovative models for patients to receive the highest quality of care closer to home. Now with Mary Chiles, Saint Joseph Hospital, Saint Joseph East, Saint Joseph Berea and the upcoming Saint Joseph Jessamine, patients all over central and eastern Kentucky will have access to Saint Joseph quality care.”

Patrick Romano, chief executive officer of Mary Chiles, said that the mission and goals of Mary Chiles, Saint Joseph and Catholic Health Initiatives are aligned. “The combined strengths of Mary Chiles and Saint Joseph, together with a new facility, will offer the latest in health care here in Mt. Sterling,” he said.

Miller Hoffman, chair of the Mary Chiles board, said, “Mary Chiles approached Saint Joseph because of their unsurpassed reputation and quality of patient care. This level of care, coupled with the technology and services that will come with our new hospital, will serve the residents of our area well for decades to come.”

Jeffrey Drop, president and chief executive officer of St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, Ore., has been named senior vice president and division executive officer for Catholic Health Initiatives. Drop will provide executive leadership and guidance, in conjunction with local boards of directors, to the chief executive officers of Catholic Health Initiatives’ market-based organizations in North Dakota and Minnesota. He will be based in the Fargo office.

During his 20-year career in health care, Drop has worked at hospitals in rural communities in New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Iowa. During his tenure at St. Anthony, the hospital consistently improved its clinical, operational and financial performance, as well as employee satisfaction and core values assessment scores.

Drop has a master’s degree in hospital administration from Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa., and an undergraduate degree from Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa.
Several Catholic Health Initiatives hospitals were recognized by HealthStream Research with Excellence Through Insight awards for 2006. The awards recognize hospitals that excel in the ability to gain insight into their patients, employees, physicians and communities through research, and to use that information to build organizational excellence. HealthStream Research (formerly The Jackson Organization) is Catholic Health Initiatives' provider of patient, employee and physician satisfaction measurement.

Catholic Health Initiatives congratulates all of the award-winning hospitals. HealthStream Research will present the Excellence Through Insight awards at the Creating Excellence in Healthcare Conference, October 21-23 in Nashville, Tenn.

Catholic Health Initiatives held a blessing and dedication ceremony for the Central Business Office located in Fargo, N.D., on July 24. Reverend Dale Kinzler, health care liaison for the Diocese of Fargo, officiated at the ceremony. Speakers included Michael Fordyce, chief administrative officer for Catholic Health Initiatives, and Joe Scargle, director of the Fargo Central Business Office. The Fargo Central Business Office will serve market-based organizations in North Dakota and Minnesota.
The NCI Community Cancer Centers Program (NCCCP), designed to reduce disparities in cancer care and improve oncology research, will encourage collaboration between community hospitals and medical, surgical and radiation oncologists and will forge close links to NCI research. The initiative will provide thousands more Americans with access to a system of high-quality cancer care and provide care to more patients where they live.

The three-year pilot phase of the program will research new and enhanced ways to assist, educate and better treat the needs of underserved populations — including elderly, rural, inner-city and low-income patients — as well as racial and ethnic groups with unusually high cancer rates.

This is the first NCI project aimed at extending NCI programs into local communities. “As the nation’s primary cancer research agency, the NCI has historically funded large urban academic and research centers,” said Kevin Lofton, president and chief executive officer of Catholic Health Initiatives. “For the first time ever, in addition to seeking community-based centers, NCI wanted to engage a health system in the project that could promote rapid expansion of improved cancer care throughout the system. Catholic Health Initiatives was selected as a system for participation because of its wide geographical representation of acute care hospitals that already have established mechanisms for quick dissemination of knowledge, best practices for clinical care and quality of care across the system.”

The pilot project, expected to lead to a national launch in 2010, will have a heavy emphasis on electronic medical records as a key factor in improving medical care. Each of the pilot sites will study how community hospitals can develop and implement a national database of voluntarily provided electronic medical records accessible to cancer researchers.

In all, the NCI selected 10 sites with a total of 16 community hospitals for the project. “More than 170 community hospitals and health systems applied,” said Debbi Honey, vice president of clinical operations for Catholic Health Initiatives. “We are thrilled that Catholic Health Initiatives was selected.”

The participating Catholic Health Initiatives hospitals and their cancer centers are:

- Penrose-St. Francis Health Services (Penrose Cancer Center), Colorado Springs, Colo.
- St. Joseph Medical Center (St. Joseph Cancer Institute), Towson, Md.
- A coordinated regional program in Nebraska that includes Good Samaritan Hospital (Good Samaritan Cancer Center), Kearney; Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center (St. Elizabeth Cancer Center), Lincoln; and Saint Francis Medical Center (Saint Francis Cancer Treatment Center), Grand Island.
Mary Wakefield, RN, PhD, professor and director of the Center for Rural Health and adjunct professor for the College of Nursing at the University of North Dakota, became chair of the Catholic Health Initiatives Board of Stewardship Trustees on July 1.

Wakefield, a member of the Board of Stewardship Trustees since 2003, is the first member of the laity to serve as chair. Prior to her current position at the University of North Dakota, she was professor and director of the Center for Health Policy at George Mason University; chief of staff for two U.S. senators; and a consultant to the World Health Organization’s Global Program on AIDS.

The Board of Stewardship Trustees also welcomed a new member, Michael O’Boyle. O’Boyle is chief operating officer of the Cleveland Clinic and Cleveland Clinic Health System, Cleveland, Ohio. Prior to joining the Cleveland Clinic in 2001, he was executive vice president and chief financial officer with Medstar Health, Inc., Columbia, Maryland. He also serves on the boards of directors of the United Way of Greater Cleveland and The Greenspring Fund, Lutherville, Md.

NCI will provide a total of $15 million during the project. Of these funds, the three Catholic Health Initiatives sites (the Nebraska hospitals are grouped as one site) will receive $1.5 million, which will be matched by monetary and in-kind contributions from Catholic Health Initiatives and the participating hospitals.

Mark Krasna, MD, a thoracic oncologist who is medical director for the Cancer Institute at St. Joseph Medical Center in Towson, will serve as Catholic Health Initiatives’ principal investigator for the study. Deb Hood, former director of the oncology program at Penrose-St. Francis Health Services, will coordinate project-related activity within Catholic Health Initiatives.

“Service line growth is a strategic initiative for Catholic Health Initiatives, with oncology services identified as a priority growth area,” said John DiCola, senior vice president of strategy and business development for Catholic Health Initiatives. “Our growth strategy also calls us to transform delivery of health care. So, this project advances several of our strategic objectives. Our participation will also help us establish the kind of national visibility and system-wide network needed to strengthen our support for our market-based organizations in their ongoing clinical development, as well as their advancement to new levels of research and development activity.”
Catholic Health Initiatives’ Mission and Ministry Fund has awarded 13 grants totaling more than $3 million in 2007 as part of its commitment to building healthy communities across the country and around the world.

The grants will help fund a wide array of community programs, ranging from a new diabetes clinic in Louisville, Ky., to a parenting program in Nebraska City, Neb.

Since it was established in 1996 by Catholic Health Initiatives’ participating congregations, the fund has awarded 188 grants totaling approximately $24 million to programs around the globe. The fund was built during Catholic Health Initiatives’ first decade through contributions from its facilities.

“A year ago, we met the goal of establishing a principal of $100 million for the Mission and Ministry Fund, which was a tremendous achievement for our system,” said Kevin Lofton, president and chief executive officer of Catholic Health Initiatives. “Now, we look forward to expanding our efforts to create innovative ways to bring about significant improvements in the health of the communities we serve, both in the U.S. and abroad.”

While three types of Mission and Ministry Fund grants — project grants, planning grants and international grants — are available, no planning grants were awarded for 2007. “Planning grants are designed to be awarded to fledgling community coalitions to help them create comprehensive community health initiatives,” said Diane Jones, vice president of healthy communities for Catholic Health Initiatives. “Most of our market-based organizations now have such coalitions and initiatives in place, so this area of grant activity has subsided.”

Mission and Ministry Fund project grants and international grants support innovative projects designed to improve the health of a community in the U.S. or abroad, often by serving disadvantaged individuals and populations. The projects must meet identified community needs, invite collaboration with community partners and be replicable in other communities.

For more information on the Mission and Ministry Fund grant cycle, contact Diane Jones at dianejones@catholichealth.net.
### The Mustard Seed Project

**Franciscan Foundation**  
Tacoma, Washington  
**2007 Grant: $83,340**  
**(over two years)**

Elderly people living in the rural Key Peninsula area of Washington must often travel significant distances or permanently leave their homes to receive health care and other services. The Mustard Seed Project represents a commitment to create an “elder-friendly” Key Peninsula for the more than 1,500 residents who are aged 65 and over. Guided by an executive director, a steering committee and an 11-member Council of Elders, The Mustard Seed Project envisions a community with a complete continuum of high-quality, affordable services and programs that will allow elders to “age in place.” Following a needs assessment and year-long planning process, four focus areas for the project emerged: the creation of centralized, volunteer-supported senior information and referral services; the enhancement of transportation and mobility options for elders; the expansion of elder health and wellness services; and the addition of housing options for aging in place. The Franciscan Foundation will collaborate with a number of organizations, including Franciscan Health System, Pierce County Aging and Long-Term Care and the Key Peninsula Health and Professional Center, on various project goals. The project will also collaborate with the University of Washington–Tacoma’s social work program to evaluate the efficacy of a community initiative in building an elder-friendly community.

### Scoring Success through Best Health Screens

**Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation**  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
**2007 Grant: $50,000**

During the past few summers, a number of underserved children who completed a physical exam in order to participate in a summer baseball league sponsored by the Cincinnati Reds professional baseball team were found to have vision deficits, dental decay and musculoskeletal problems. Although these children were referred to medical providers, there was little follow-up to determine whether they had received treatment. Data obtained from the Hamilton County Health Department shows that the follow-up medical care rate on positive health screens in underserved populations ranges from 30 to 40 percent. Through a pilot health screening program called Scoring Success through Best Health Screens, Good Samaritan Hospital will target underserved children, ages eight to 11, who participate in the Cincinnati Reds Rookie Success League. The program will improve the rate of follow-up care by implementing strategies that include: hiring a health care professional whose responsibilities will include design and implementation of a tracking system for the Reds Rookie Success League’s health screens; providing cab vouchers or bus tokens to participants who lack transportation to a medical provider; and positive incentives, such as gift certificates, to encourage parents and child care providers to obtain the needed medical care for the children.

### JHSMH Westside Diabetes Clinic

**Jewish Hospital & St. Mary’s Foundation**  
Louisville, Kentucky  
**2007 Grant: $319,090**  
**(over three years)**

From 2003 to 2006, African Americans in Louisville, Ky., had higher-than-average death rates for four of the six leading causes of death in the U.S. The mortality rate for African Americans with diabetes in Louisville is estimated to be 74 percent higher than that for whites. This disparity is closely tied to inadequate access to health care. In the West End of Louisville, where residents are predominantly African American, access to health care in all but one zip code is rated “fair” to “poor.” The Westside Diabetes Clinic, headed by A. O’tayo Lalude, MD, a nationally recognized expert in diabetes management, will be located in the heart of the West End. The clinic’s goal is to substantially reduce the growing prevalence of diabetes in the West End’s population. The clinic will make diabetes education, treatment, assessment and monitoring available in one, readily accessible facility. In addition, the clinic will provide training for medical professionals in the comprehensive prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diabetes. The clinic will collaborate with city government; the Louisville Metro Health Department; and health providers who have been affected by the prevalence of diabetes in the West End. The program will use measures of care established by the Diabetes Physician Recognition Program for the control of diabetes.
Project Grants

Nampa Healthy Start Initiative
Mercy Medical Center
Nampa, Idaho
2007 Grant: $356,088
(over three years)

Some of the Nampa area’s youngest residents and their caregivers are in need of services. Nearly one in five children who enter kindergarten are at risk for failure; this figure increases to one in three in schools where more than 62 percent of children are considered economically disadvantaged. Canyon County, where Nampa is located, also has a significantly high rate of teen births, with 33.5 pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15 to 17, compared with 16.8 pregnancies in the same age group for the State of Idaho. Through a community-wide effort, the Nampa Healthy Start Initiative will reduce child abuse and improve child health, development and safety by strengthening families and promoting competent care giving. Starting with the families of the 1,800 babies born at Mercy Medical Center each year, the project will branch out to reach vulnerable families in the community. Partners who will deliver services through the program include Mercy Medical Center, a community clinic, a teen parent program, the Latino Healthcare Access Coalition and the Boys and Girls Club. Target outcomes include the establishment of a network to coordinate services for vulnerable families; a 25 percent increase in the pre-literacy skills of children born to teen parents; and a 75 percent increase in resistance skills for participants in the Boys and Girls Club Smart Moves teen program.

Third City Dental Screening Clinic
Saint Francis Medical Center
Grand Island, Nebraska
2007 Grant: $186,649
(over three years)

During a recent Mission of Mercy dental clinic held in Grand Island, people lined up as early as 4 am to receive free dental care. While more than 1,750 people received treatment, hundreds more had to be turned away. This clinic created an opportunity for Saint Francis Medical Center to work with the dental community and re-address the need to provide dental health assistance to low-income families. Saint Francis will establish the Third City Dental Screening Clinic to improve access to dental health care for low-income residents and to increase the number of local dental professionals who provide volunteer services. To create the clinic, Saint Francis will partner with the Third City Community Clinic (a free medical clinic), the Central Community College Dental Hygiene Program and the Hall County Dentists Association. The clinic will provide dental screening and referrals, cleanings and oral hygiene education. Volunteer dentists will then provide referred patients with treatment at no charge or for a nominal fee. Outcome measures will include a data comparison of dental-related emergencies at Saint Francis before and after the establishment of the dental screening clinic; the number of dentists that participate in the project; and a survey to determine any growth in dental community support for the project.

Catherine Spalding House, Brockton, Mass
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth
Nazareth, Kentucky
2007 Grant: $36,000

There are approximately 150 Hmong families, or 1,500 Hmong individuals, living in Brockton, Mass. The Hmong community in Brockton reflects 2000 U.S. Census data, which showed that half of Hmong adults in the U.S. have less than a ninth-grade education, compared to 7.5 percent of the total U.S. population. The average age of the U.S. Hmong population is just 16.1 years, with an average household size of 6.27, compared to 2.59 percent for the entire U.S. population. Catherine Spalding House, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, is a place of welcome, spirituality and service to the Hmong people and other groups living in the diverse, multicultural community of Brockton. The facility’s goal is to provide a sense of stability and security to the Hmong and other immigrants as they enter the American culture; to help them preserve and pass on key aspects of their culture; to empower the young with leadership skills; and respond to expressed needs. Catherine Spalding House provides the Hmong population of Brockton with a Summer Bible Program, a Cultural Awareness Program, a Youth Leadership Program, an Elder Women’s Garden Project and Earth Days. Many organizations, including Catholic parishes and schools and the East Coast Hmong Ministry, help support Catherine Spalding House through volunteerism and financial assistance.
Caminos Pathway Learning Center Digital Inclusion Project, San Francisco, California

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Omaha Region
Omaha, Nebraska
2007 Grant: $145,000

In the San Francisco Bay Area, Latino families are five times more likely to be poor than white families. Although Latinos have a high rate of participation in the labor force, the jobs they hold often do not offer adequate income. The goal of the Caminos project sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Omaha Region, is to educate Latina women in technology skills so they can achieve greater financial security. Caminos is working to become a self-sufficient organization, and the Digital Inclusion Project will create new opportunities to generate revenue. Targeted outcomes include the definition and development of three revenue-generating projects; providing employment to 30 women through these projects; and creating a bilingual help desk and call center. Caminos works with many collaborators to recruit and refer students, including shelters, technology centers, family resource centers, colleges and universities, businesses and nonprofit organizations. Caminos also works with community-based organizations to provide free or low-cost computer analysis, repair and networking services. In addition, Caminos students and staff work together to provide technology workshops to other low-income ethnic communities. Caminos evaluates all students and staff on goal attainment, and self-evaluates the organization’s ability to attract participants, partner agencies, volunteers and donors.

Al alcance
St. John’s Regional Medical Center
Joplin, Missouri
2007 Grant: $222,022 (over three years)

There has been a dramatic recent increase in the Hispanic population in southwest Missouri: since 1990, the Hispanic population in a six-county area increased 480.7 percent. Within the Hispanic community, language differences represent one of the most obvious barriers to the provision of quality medical care. Individuals who are concerned about immigration issues also often lack knowledge about available health care. This makes the Hispanic population significantly more likely to suffer from cardiovascular disease and diabetes. The purpose of Al alcance — a Spanish idiom that means “accessible,” or “within reach” — is to improve health care access for this community. Under the direction of a Multi-Cultural Limited English Proficiency Task Force, the project will implement a three-year program to improve access to health care for members of the Hispanic community; increase their health literacy; and increase their satisfaction with services provided. The project plan includes working with collaborators to train health care workers in the provision of culturally sensitive care; implementation of a volunteer interpreter training program; and development of community outreach and health education. Target outcomes include increasing the number of medically trained Spanish interpreters from zero to 40; and having 95 percent of employees who have direct patient contact score well on an annual Cultural Diversity Assessment test.
**Project Grants**

**Brush. Brush. Smile! Expansion**

**St. Joseph Health Ministries**  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania  
**2007 Grant: $182,996**

The U.S. Surgeon General has called oral diseases among children a “silent epidemic.” The most common chronic childhood disease among all children, tooth decay, is twice as likely to go untreated among low-income or economically disadvantaged children. In fact, an estimated 19,000 low-income children in Lancaster County fail to visit a dentist each year. St. Joseph Health Ministries will expand the capacity of its children’s oral health initiative, Brush. Brush. Smile!, by adding a mobile dental office. This mobile dental office will consist of two fully-functioning dental operatories that can be transported and set up in various locations throughout the county. Brush. Brush. Smile! will also add a full-time dental team — consisting of a dentist, a dental hygienist and two dental assistants — who will adopt the mobile dental office as their practice. With the addition of the mobile dental office, St. Joseph Health Ministries anticipates providing up to 600 additional low-income or economically disadvantaged children with dental care. St. Joseph Health Ministries will continue to collaborate with all 16 school districts in Lancaster County, federal health centers, emergency dental networks, Head Start and others. Measures for the long-term success of Brush. Brush. Smile!, based on the children’s oral health goals outlined in Healthy People 2010, include increasing the proportion of low-income children who receive preventive dental services.

**Powered by Me!**

**St. Joseph Medical Center**  
Towson, Maryland  
**2007 Grant: $450,000**  
**(over three years)**

While the dangers and cost to society of illegal drug use are well known, St. Joseph Medical Center has identified another type of substance abuse that is especially hazardous because it often does not raise immediate alarms: the abuse of illegal anabolic steroids and legal performance-enhancing substances (PES), especially among young athletes. Recent studies show that anabolic steroids are easy to obtain and their use is increasing among middle- and high-school students. When abused, anabolic steroids can have serious side effects, including high blood pressure, heart disease, cancer, stunted growth and aggressive behaviors. The goals of the Powered by Me! Program include bringing health professionals together to learn about the risks of steroid and PES abuse; acting as a referral source for steroid and PES abusers who seek treatment; and educating stakeholders, including parents, physicians, coaches and educators, about the risks associated with anabolic steroids and PES. St. Joseph will collaborate on Powered by Me! with its new mission health care partner, St. Agnes Hospital, as well as the Maryland State Department of Education, Congressional Representative Elijah E. Cummings and other health providers. Baseline and follow-up surveys of stakeholders will assess awareness of anabolic steroid and PES use in Maryland and the effectiveness of the Powered by Me! Program.

**Community Assisted Parenting Education**

**St. Mary’s Community Hospital**  
Nebraska City, Nebraska  
**2007 Grant: $199,888**  
**(over three years)**

Using qualitative and quantitative data, the Healthy Families Subcommittee of Nebraska City’s Healthy Communities Coalition identified an increased level of high-risk behaviors among youth in the area. They also identified a lack of parenting programs for the parents of children under age three and the absence of a coordinated effort to improve parenting skills in the community. The Healthy Communities Coalition seeks to reduce, and eventually eliminate, high-risk behaviors in young people, including drug and alcohol abuse, early pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and criminal activities. The Community Assisted Parenting Education program will help parents practice positive parenting from birth, leading to the prevention of destructive behaviors in young people. The program, which will incorporate training and materials developed by Great Kids, Inc., will have the support of the members of the Healthy Communities Coalition, including individuals representing city government, school systems, churches, health providers and police. The coalition expects early evidence of the program’s effectiveness through a reduction in substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect in Otoe County. Long-term results are expected to include reductions in births to unmarried women under age 20 and crimes perpetrated by residents under age 18; and an increase in high school graduates who enroll in college or trade schools within a year of graduation.
### Community Development Initiative

**St. Joseph Community Health**  
**Albuquerque, New Mexico**  
**2007 Grant: $750,000** (over three years)

Albuquerque’s Southeast Heights neighborhoods have the city’s highest rates of foreign-born immigrants and refugees, young- and single-parent families and low-wage income earners. These neighborhoods have high rates of families living in poverty, adolescent pregnancy and families who lack medical insurance. Statistics from local law enforcement document the neighborhood’s high rates of violent crime associated with domestic violence, drug trafficking, gang affiliation, assault and child abuse. The Community Development Initiative will support community health improvement in the neighborhoods of Southeast Heights by strengthening and expanding El Centro Inmigrante, a community-owned and governed immigrant services center. The center, which is located in Southeast Heights, provides a place for immigrants and other low-income residents to connect with culturally and linguistically appropriate resources and employment opportunities. The center’s goal is to become a self-supporting enterprise that provides computer skills training, preventive health workshops, residency status assistance, tax preparation and other services. St. Joseph Community Health has worked with a strong, collaborative network to improve aspects of community health, such as immunization rates and access to primary care, in Southeast Heights. St. Joseph Community Health will measure the progress of the Community Development Initiative through pre- and post-tests, surveys and monitoring of community health outcomes.

### International Grant

**Holy Rosary International Mission Program, Saint Lucia**  
**Holy Rosary Medical Center**  
**Ontario, Oregon**  
**2007 Grant: $25,575**

During the past two years, Holy Rosary Medical Center has established a “sister hospital” relationship with Saint Jude’s Hospital in the Caribbean island nation of Saint Lucia. The hospital serves the rural poor of Saint Lucia, who make up more than 80 percent of the population. Each summer, a team of physicians, nurses and other clinicians from Holy Rosary volunteer at Saint Jude’s for a three-week period. Both hospitals are now ready to explore capacity-building opportunities for Saint Jude’s. Potential goals include creating a home health program to serve residents of Saint Lucia’s remote villages; training Saint Jude’s personnel to provide better trauma and critical care; building on the quality improvement and management training programs started at Saint Jude’s in 2006; and developing a diabetes prevention and treatment program. Targeted outcomes are expected to include the identification of one substantial and sustainable capacity-building project during 2007, with full implementation of that project by 2010.
Mercy-Des Moines Announces Construction of New Hospital

After reaching an agreement with Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa, Mercy Medical Center-Des Moines announced the construction of a new hospital in West Des Moines, Iowa. A blessing and ground-breaking ceremony for Mercy West Lakes was held July 19. “Moving forward with the hospital in West Des Moines fulfills our promise to the patients and families we serve to provide outstanding health care services across the metro area,” said David Vellinga, president and chief executive officer of Mercy Medical Center-Des Moines. “It also honors the tradition of our founders, the Sisters of Mercy, to make a profound, positive difference in the quality of people’s lives.” As part of the agreement with Wellmark, Mercy-Des Moines will go forward with plans to close its Mercy Capitol facility once Mercy West Lakes is completed. For more information, contact Laura VandenBosch of Mercy-Des Moines at lvandenbosch@mercydesmoines.org.

Good Samaritan in Cincinnati Dedicates Patient Care Tower

Good Samaritan Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio, dedicated the centerpiece of a new, 10-story patient care tower on May 31. The five-year, $122 million project will provide the hospital with 168,000 square feet of new space for patient care, with another 145,000 square feet renovated as part of the project. The expansion will add patient beds, increase the number of surgical suites and accommodate state-of-the-art technology. The hospital also anticipates adding more than 230 jobs. “By increasing our capacity to care, we have increased the community’s trust that we will be there for them when they need us,” said John Prout, president and chief executive officer of TriHealth.

St. Joseph’s Area Health Services Breaks Ground for Expansion

St. Joseph’s Area Health Services, Park Rapids, Minn., along with Dakota Clinic, broke ground on June 5 for a $26 million renovation and expansion project. Ben Koppelman, president and chief executive officer of St. Joseph’s, said the ceremony celebrated the visibility of a new era on the St. Joseph’s campus. The project will enable St. Joseph’s and Dakota Clinic to provide medical services under one roof, in a more cost-effective manner and in a patient-friendly environment. Other speakers at the event, which thanked community members for their support, included Helen Keezer, chair of the St. Joseph’s Board; Larry Leadbetter, MD, medical director for Dakota Clinic; Mark Schick, chair of the St. Joseph’s Foundation Board; and Larry Solberg, chief executive officer of Dakota Clinic and Innovis Health, Fargo, N.D. For more information, contact Cynthia Rooney of St. Joseph’s at cynthia_rooney@catholichealth.net.

Family Life Center Part of Bergan Mercy Expansion Plan

Alegent Health announced an expansion plan for Bergan Mercy Medical Center, Omaha, Neb., that will include the new Bergan Family Life Center. The center will feature a state-of-the-art, comprehensive labor, delivery and recovery center as well as an expanded Level III neonatal intensive care unit. The expansion,

The long line of participants reflects the cooperation and community support that characterized the groundbreaking ceremony for an expansion of St. Joseph’s Area Health Services, Park Rapids, Minn.
St. Anthony Opens Urgent Care Clinic

St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, Ore., opened the new St. Anthony Urgent Care Clinic on July 5. The hospital opened the clinic to fill a void left after Pendleton’s only urgent care clinic closed in February. The clinic, located across the street from the hospital, is staffed by a nurse practitioner, a registered nurse and a certified medical assistant who also acts as receptionist. The clinic welcomed 21 visitors on its first day of operation.

Clinical Engineering Enters Agreement with Catholic Healthcare Partners

Catholic Health Initiatives’ Clinical Engineering Department entered into an agreement to assume responsibility for clinical engineering services in Catholic Healthcare Partners’ hospitals. Catholic Healthcare Partners, based in Cincinnati, Ohio, operates 35 hospitals in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Tennessee. After a successful pilot implementation in Youngstown, Ohio, a phased implementation schedule has been designed to be completed within the next 12 months.

TriHealth Receives Honor for Diversity in Supply Chain Process

For the second consecutive year, TriHealth, Cincinnati, Ohio, earned an honorable mention from the Premier health care alliance for programs that support supplier diversity. TriHealth is the only hospital system within the Premier organization to receive an honorable mention two years in a row. For more information, contact Mona Bronson-Fuqua at mona_bronson-fuqua@trihealth.com.

Oakes Community Hospital Opens New Facility

A dedication and blessing ceremony for the new Oakes Community Hospital, Oakes, N.D., was held June 3, and the hospital officially welcomed its first patients on June 19. The new, 20-bed facility replaces a facility that provided patient care for more than 50 years. Speakers at the ceremony included Bishop Samuel Aquila of the Diocese of Fargo; John Hoeven, governor of North Dakota; Larry Schulz, senior vice president of operations for Catholic Health Initiatives, and many community leaders. Residents of Oakes and the surrounding communities raised more than $1.4 million for the $10.4 million project. Individual contributions also provided furnishings for the hospital’s St. Francis Chapel. The design of the 35,000 square-foot critical access hospital uses the theme of “wind,” reflected in curves, a warm color palate and photos of nature. The hospital includes a surgery suite with a ceiling boom system, computed radiography and PACS systems, a labor/delivery/recovery/postpartum suite, an enclosed ambulance bay for emergency arrivals and swing-bed assistance.
Two Hospitals Receive Patient Safety Awards
Two of Catholic Health Initiatives’ hospitals received the 2007 Distinguished Hospital Award for Patient Safety from HealthGrades. St. Joseph Medical Center, Towson, Md., and St. Vincent Infirmary Medical Center, Little Rock, Ark., were ranked in the top five percent of U.S. hospitals for patient safety, according to a study conducted by HealthGrades. The fourth annual study used MedPAR data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to identify rates of 16 types of patient safety incidents among Medicare patients at virtually all of the nation’s 5,000 nonfederal hospitals. The study found that if all hospitals performed at the level of the Distinguished Hospitals for Patient Safety, approximately 206,286 patient safety incidents could have been avoided, with $1.74 billion saved.

Mercy Des Moines to Implement Iowa’s First Electronic ICU Program
Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines, Iowa, plans to implement the state’s first electronic intensive care unit (eICU). Through the use of telemedicine technologies, fiber optics and sophisticated diagnostic tools, the eICU concept allows continual monitoring and care for intensive care patients from a centralized control facility. The eICU system will allow intensive care physicians to remotely monitor critically ill patients in rural Iowa hospitals affiliated with Mercy-Des Moines. “Sometimes, the care that best meets patients’ and families’ needs is delivered close to home,” said David Kapaska, DO, vice president of medical affairs at Mercy-Des Moines.

“With eICU, patients can have access to an additional team of specialists and experts in critical care medicine in their own local hospitals.” The eICU system at Mercy-Des Moines is expected to be operational in late 2007. For more information, contact Tracy McBee of Mercy-Des Moines at tmcbee@mercydesmoines.org.

Friendship, Inc., Awarded Four-Year Accreditation
Friendship, Inc., Fargo, N.D., was awarded four-year accreditation by the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL), a nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement of personal and community life for people with disabilities and people with mental illness. Friendship, Inc., provides a variety of innovative, person-centered, residential and vocational services to people with intellectual disabilities. The accreditation confirms that Friendship, Inc., meets CQL’s standards for the development of a fully integrated quality management system. For more information, contact Jeff Pederson of Friendship, Inc., at jeffpederson@catholichealth.net.

St. Joseph’s Receives Quality of Place Award from Northwest Minnesota Foundation
St. Joseph’s Area Health Services, Park Rapids, Minn., received a Quality of Place Award from the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. The award recognizes the foundation’s partners, grantees, training participants and loan clients that have helped to develop community assets and enhance the quality of places in northwest Minnesota. St. Joseph’s was recognized for its work in developing a dental education program for children in Hubbard County. The Community Dental Clinic in Park Rapids, which is sponsored by St. Joseph’s, provided space for a public health nurse to supply information on dental health and other public health issues to patients and families who receive services through public health insurance programs. The project has provided dental education to more than 1,000 students from preschool through high school; 650 participants in the Minnesota Department of Health’s Women, Infants and Children program; and 200 new mothers. The project received grant funds from the Northwest Minnesota Foundation and the foundation’s Park Rapids Early Childhood Initiative. For more information, contact Cynthia Rooney of St. Joseph’s at cynthiarooney@catholichealth.net.

Mercy in Durango Receives Accreditation in Mammography
Mercy Regional Medical Center, Durango, Colo., received a three-year accreditation in mammography from the American College of Radiology (ACR). The ACR awards accreditation to facilities for the achievement of high practice standards. Mercy’s ultrasound department is also certified by the ACR. For more information, contact David Bruzzese of Mercy at davidbruzzese@mercydurango.org.
Our Lady of the Way Hospital Receives Quality Award

Our Lady of the Way Hospital, Martin, Ky., received the 2007 Quality Award in the category of Critical Access Hospitals from the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA). The award honors hospital leadership and innovation in quality, safety and commitment to patient care. Our Lady of the Way Hospital is the only hospital in eastern Kentucky to receive a 2007 KHA Quality Award. “We have a great team that provides quality care 24/7, and this award is reflective of the work they do,” said Kathy Stumbo, president and chief executive officer of Our Lady of the Way Hospital. For more information, contact Neva Francis of Our Lady of the Way Hospital at nevafrancis@catholichealth.net.

Announcements

Plourde Named Vice President, Strategy and Business Development

Jerry Plourde, director of strategy and business development for Catholic Health Initiatives, has been promoted to vice president of strategy and business development. He will serve as the chief strategy resource and consultant to Dave Goode, senior vice president and group executive officer, and the market-based organization leadership teams in Goode’s group. He will also be a member of the National Strategy Group. Plourde is based in the Minneapolis office of Catholic Health Initiatives and will relocate to Denver when the Minneapolis office closes in 2009.