Strategic Initiatives

Announcements (continued)

Bagg to Lead Colorado Foundation

Jerry Bagg was named president and chief executive officer of Catholic Health Initiatives’ Colorado Foundation. Bagg, current president of the Penrose-St. Francis Health Foundation in Colorado Springs, Colo., will now also oversee four more foundations in the state, including St. Anthony Health Foundation, Denver; St. Mary-Corwin Health Foundation, Pueblo; St. Thomas More Health Foundation, Canon City; and Mercy Medical Foundation, Durango.

St. Elizabeth’s Health In Action! Receives National Publicity

Health in Action! (HIA!), a community health program supported by St. Elizabeth Health Services, Baker City, Ore., was featured in the March 2006 issue of Rural Roads, the magazine of the National Rural Health Association. The article “Getting There Quicker: Community Health Improvement” discussed several programs of HIA! and the Baker County Community Health Improvement Partnership, noting their contributions toward improved health in the state’s rural areas. For more information, contact Sherrie Kvamme, HIA! Coordinator, at sherriekvamme@chiwest.com.
Mission and Ministry Fund Awards 16 Grants

In its tenth anniversary year, the Mission and Ministry Fund awarded nearly $2 million in grants for building healthy communities. “Throughout our 10-year history, the fund has enhanced the lives of thousands of people in the communities we serve and beyond,” said Kevin Lofton, president and chief executive officer of Catholic Health Initiatives.

Patricia Cahill Receives Honor from Catholic Health Association

Patricia A. Cahill, Esq., retired president and chief executive officer of Catholic Health Initiatives, received the Sister Mary Concilia Moran, RSM, Award from the Catholic Health Association. Widely recognized for her creative, foresighted leadership, Cahill led the consolidation of four health care systems, representing 12 congregations of women religious, into Catholic Health Initiatives.

HR/Payroll Connection to Bring Convenience

HR/Payroll Connection, the portion of CHI Connect that provides access to employment information, will go live in the national offices of Catholic Health Initiatives in January 2007. HR/Payroll Connection will be the final element of the CHI Connect system for the centralization and standardization of key business functions to go live in the national offices.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE registration is open through September 1. To receive the conference room rate at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Denver, reserve your room by August 23.
Patricia Cahill Receives Honor from Catholic Health Association

Patricia A. Cahill, Esq., retired president and chief executive officer of Catholic Health Initiatives, received the Sister Mary Concilia Moran, RSM, Award for 2006 from the Catholic Health Association (CHA). Cahill accepted the award on June 5 at CHA’s 91st Annual Catholic Health Assembly in Orlando, Fla.

The annual award recognizes visionary leaders in Catholic health care, drawing attention to their innovative ideas, unique projects and outstanding achievements.

At the CHA Assembly, Cahill was introduced by Colleen Scanlon, RN, JD, senior vice president of advocacy for Catholic Health Initiatives and a member of the CHA Board of Trustees. “This award recognizes Pat Cahill the visionary, the lighter of lamps that have helped the rest of us see more clearly and in new ways,” said Scanlon.

Cahill is widely recognized for her creative, foresighted leadership of Catholic Health Initiatives during its first seven years. She led the consolidation of four health care systems, representing 12 congregations of women religious, into what was then the largest Catholic health system in the country. She now serves on the boards of Covenant Health System, Lexington, Mass., and Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System, Lenexa, Kan.

In her remarks after receiving the award, Cahill said that the Catholic health ministry is stronger today from a business perspective than it was 20 years ago. “We need to be strong if we are to serve,” she said. “But I think more importantly for Sister Concilia, and certainly for me, is our continuing effort to care for the vulnerable among us with warmth and compassion.”

Even before leading Catholic Health Initiatives, Cahill had numerous professional achievements. These included serving as a member of the Mayor of New York City’s Task Force on AIDS; as director of health and hospitals for the Archdiocese of New York; as president of Providence Health Services, New York; and as a member of the National Coalition for Catholic Health Care. “I think I speak for Sister Concilia, and I certainly speak for myself, when I say that offering vision and leadership in Catholic health care has been a joy,” said Cahill.

“Pat’s presence to Catholic Health Initiatives and other health care ministries inspired a group of leaders who followed her to the mountains of Colorado as spiritual pilgrims,” said Kevin Lofton, president and chief executive officer of Catholic Health Initiatives. “She would often say there was ‘something in the stars’ that made Catholic Health Initiatives come together and succeed. Her star was always the brightest, and we followed her vision and leadership. As Catherine McAuley, foundress of Sister Concilia’s congregation, the Sisters of Mercy, might say today, Pat has the courage to begin tasks that are bigger than our lives. She cares deeply about people, and she helped me broaden my horizons, always keeping an open mind on what is possible, rather than impossible.”
Saint Joseph in Lexington Receives AHA NOVA Award

Saint Joseph HealthCare, Inc., Lexington, Ky., received the 2006 AHA NOVA Award from the American Hospital Association (AHA). Established in 1993, the award recognizes hospitals and health systems for collaborative efforts toward improving community health. Saint Joseph is one of five award winners selected from more than 62 applicants. Saint Joseph received the award for Saint Joseph Mobile Health Services (MHS), a free clinic that uses two 40-foot buses to take needed care to persons who are medically underserved, most of whom are uninsured. In serving several rural counties, including some in Appalachia, Saint Joseph provides care to those most in need using telemedicine and a network of community leaders, volunteers and public/private partnerships. “The AHA NOVA Award demonstrates how hospitals can and do make communities healthier and better places to live,” said Dick Davidson, president of the AHA. For more information, contact Jeff Murphy of Saint Joseph at murphyjr@sjhlex.org.

HR/Payroll Connection to Bring Convenience

HR/Payroll Connection, the portion of CHI Connect that provides access to employee information, will be implemented in the national offices of Catholic Health Initiatives in January 2007. Memorial Health Care System, Chattanooga, Tenn., which is piloting CHI Connect for the market-based organizations, will implement HR/Payroll Connection at the same time. CHI Connect is Catholic Health Initiatives’ system-wide process for the centralization and standardization of key business functions.

Through HR/Payroll Connection, employees will be able to view their employment information online, at work or at home, 24 hours a day. The available information will include pay statements, available paid time off balances, detailed information about benefits and more. Managers will be able to use HR/Payroll Connection to quickly initiate employee transactions such as promotions or transfers. An HR/Payroll Connection support center will be available by phone to answer employees’ questions from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Time.

“Basically, HR/Payroll Connection will help our employees manage internal business more efficiently,” said Herb Vallier, senior vice president and chief human resources officer. “That will give us more time to better serve one another and our local communities.”

HR/Payroll Connection will be the final element of CHI Connect to be implemented in the national offices. The portions of CHI Connect that manage supply chain and financial processes were implemented in the national offices July 3.

“Project teams will monitor all of CHI Connect’s resources and functions at the national offices and at Memorial for six months, making any necessary adjustments,” said Michael Rowan, chief operating officer. “Then, CHI Connect will be introduced to all other market-based organizations in seven waves of implementation over 18 months. The access to timely, accurate information that CHI Connect provides will truly contribute to a strong future for Catholic Health Initiatives and our market-based organizations.”

More information on the implementation of HR/Payroll Connection will be available this fall.
Catholic Health Initiatives Creating Repository of Preparedness Plans

To better prepare the system to respond to a local or national disaster, Catholic Health Initiatives is collecting the disaster preparedness plans of all market-based organizations and maintaining them in a central repository.

“All health care facilities must have disaster response plans, as required by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations,” said Milt Hammerly, MD, vice president of medical operations and integrative medicine for Catholic Health Initiatives.

“Keeping these plans, along with lists of local contacts, in a central repository will enable Catholic Health Initiatives to more effectively support any facilities that must respond to or are affected by a disaster.”

The repository of plans will also help Catholic Health Initiatives increase the preparedness of the national offices. “The national offices must be able to maintain support services for our local facilities in the event of a disaster, especially as we centralize some of our functions,” said Hammerly. “Centralization makes the continuity of system-level operations even more important for Catholic Health Initiatives.”

In Case of Isolation

Hammerly noted that plans for responding to certain types of disasters, such as an epidemic or a pandemic, which is an extremely widespread epidemic, present significant challenges. “In a natural disaster, such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita last year, affected areas are cut off from the outside world for a relatively short period of time before victims can be transported out and assistance can begin to flow in,” he said. “In an epidemic or pandemic situation, public health authorities may try to enforce community isolation, or quarantine, as the most effective intervention. Very limited amounts of supplies would be able to go in or out of the area for perhaps six weeks or more.”

Hammerly said that such a quarantine period would pose many challenges to the operation of health care facilities. “With today’s lean operating margins and just-in-time supply chain techniques, most facilities can’t afford to maintain a six-week stockpile of supplies,” he said. “To do so could consume a facility’s operating margin for an entire year or more. So, for a pandemic, it’s especially important to have a plan that works with others in the community to share and distribute resources.”

In addition, in a pandemic, infection rates for health care employees could reach 30 to 40 percent. “This would mean that health care facilities would run short-staffed for weeks,” said Hammerly. “It’s important to have a plan for effectively redeploying the employees and volunteers who would be able to work.”

Personal Preparedness

Hammerly noted that it is important for all individuals, including Catholic Health Initiatives employees, to be prepared for a disaster on a personal level. “Government agencies are sending this message out to the public, but it’s largely being ignored,” he said. “A pandemic could mean that individuals would be on their own — with no outside help and no way to obtain basic supplies like food — for six weeks or more. So, it’s a good idea for employees to create disaster kits for their homes with essential supplies. I’m not trying to raise anxiety or be overly pessimistic about things we can’t predict or control. I think of a disaster kit as a form of insurance, something that can help each of us take charge of what is within our control to maintain a sense of well being. And, the better prepared we are individually, the better prepared we will be collectively — as Catholic Health Initiatives — to serve our communities at a time of great need.”

To learn more about disaster preparedness, contact Milt Hammerly at milthammerly@catholichealth.net, or visit the Disaster Preparedness Community page on Inside CHI, Catholic Health Initiatives’ intranet. The page includes links to resources that can provide more information about personal and workplace preparedness.
In its tenth anniversary year, the Mission and Ministry Fund of Catholic Health Initiatives awarded nearly $2 million in grants for building healthy communities.

Established in 1996 by the founding congregations of Catholic Health Initiatives, the goal of the fund is to support programs that build and sustain healthy communities. Since its inception, the Mission and Ministry Fund has awarded a total of 175 grants that total approximately $21 million.

This year, the fund also achieved a milestone by accumulating $100 million in principal. The principal was established through contributions from Catholic Health Initiatives’ hospitals, long-term care facilities, residential facilities and community health service organizations located in 19 states. Earnings on the principal will fund future grants.

“The commitment of our local facilities to the Mission and Ministry Fund has been outstanding,” said Kevin Lofton, president and chief executive officer of Catholic Health Initiatives. “Throughout our 10-year history, the fund has enhanced the lives of thousands of people in the communities we serve and beyond. By funding programs ranging from school-based clinics to mentoring programs for new immigrants, the fund has become a hallmark of Catholic Health Initiatives’ local and system-wide commitment to enhancing health and well-being.”

Here are the project grants, international grants and planning grants awarded by the Mission and Ministry Fund this year.

### Project Grants

**Catherine Spalding House, Brockton, Massachusetts**  
*Sisters of Charity of Nazareth*  
*Bardstown, Kentucky*  
*$39,000*

Catherine Spalding House, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, provides services to the Hmong population in the diverse, multicultural community of Brockton, Mass. There are approximately 1,500 Hmong individuals in Brockton. In the fall of 1998, two members of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth met with small groups of immigrant women and found that while some were well organized, the Hmong were not. St. Margaret’s Church became a gathering place for the Hmong community, but when the church closed in 2004, Catherine Spalding House became the community’s place to gather. In the coming year, the grant will help sponsor a summer day camp and cultural awareness program for children, a youth leadership program for teens and a garden project for women in the Hmong community.

**Strides to a Healthier Community**  
*St. Mary’s Healthcare Center*  
*Pierre, South Dakota*  
*$40,709*

In 1990, 45 percent of adults in central South Dakota were overweight or obese; by 2004, 64 percent were overweight or obese. Obesity rates among children in the state have increased as well. With prevention identified as a top community concern in two local healthy community reports, the Strides to a Healthier Community project will encourage Pierre-area residents to improve their nutrition and increase physical activity. The local Healthy Community Coalition will conduct a survey to measure citizens’ feelings and attitudes about physical activity and nutrition; develop a campaign to promote health for body, mind and spirit; and create a program for wellness screening, health information and education. Plans include development of an interactive Web page, educational sessions, changes to environmental policies and collaboration with local businesses.
Project Grants

Bridging Children and Families with Mental Health and Community Resources Initiative

Unity Family Healthcare
Little Falls, Minnesota
$192,757 (over two years)

Data from a community health needs assessment, surveys, focus groups and government sources document the need to improve delivery of mental health services to children in Morrison County. For example, the Minnesota Department of Health estimates that one in five youth age nine to 17 has a mental health disorder. Within the county, 50 pre-school children have been identified as needing mental health referrals; 19 students in two schools have been identified with mental health needs that exceed school resources. The Healthy Communities Collaborative of Morrison County will use the “Bridging” program to improve the lives of children in need of mental health services. The program will provide early intervention and services to children and their parents through a school-based counseling program, a support group program and education in the skills needed to engage community resources.

Improving End-of-Life Care in Kentucky Communities

Saint Joseph HealthCare, Inc.
Lexington, Kentucky
$51,930 (over two years)

Through this project, Saint Joseph will help four Catholic Health Initiatives hospitals in Kentucky develop palliative care programs. The hospitals — Our Lady of the Way Hospital, Martin; Saint Joseph Berea, Berea; Marymount Medical Center, London; and Flaget Memorial Hospital, Bardstown — are the only hospitals in their communities, and the development of palliative care programs will enable them to provide a more complete continuum of care. The project will provide education, consultation and mentoring from a team of palliative care experts, including staff from Saint Joseph’s palliative care program, the Palliative Care Center of the Bluegrass and the Palliative Care Leadership Center. The first phase will involve creation of interdisciplinary palliative care teams at each location; the second phase will provide educational programs for health professionals and members of the public.

Healthy Alternatives for Central High/Centennial Park Neighborhood Youth

St. Vincent Health System
Little Rock, Arkansas
$90,727 (over three years)

The Central High and Centennial Park neighborhoods of Little Rock have high rates of crime and gang activity. Most neighborhood children come from single-parent households and have many risk factors for rebellious and antisocial behaviors, drug use and academic failure. To promote holistic personal, family and community health in these downtown neighborhoods, this project will provide youth with healthy alternatives to drug use, alcohol use and gang involvement through a partnership with Inner City FutureNet. The Healthy Alternatives project will support Inner City FutureNet’s youth development programs; provide opportunities for young people and their families to grow some of the food they need through an urban farm program; and provide career-related training to at least 15 youth through six-month internships at St. Vincent Health System during the next three years.

Reducing Childhood Obesity

Marymount Medical Center
London, Kentucky
$198,285 (over three years)

While the national obesity rate for children is 21 percent, the rate is 31 percent in Laurel County: and, in three kindergarten classes to be served by the Reducing Childhood Obesity program, the rate is 37 percent. In collaboration with the Laurel County Health Department and other community groups, the program will pursue a six percent reduction in the county’s childhood obesity rate during the next six years. To improve the physical health of children in kindergarten through fifth grade, the program will promote increased physical activity and improved nutrition. The program will also increase parents’ understanding of and commitment to proper nutrition and exercise for their children, and encourage community participation through implementation of after-school programs at churches and other locations in the community.
**Nelson County Free Clinic**
Flaget Memorial Hospital
Bardstown, Kentucky
$277,710 (over three years)

Nelson County, a medically underserved area, has one of the highest mortality rates among Kentucky counties. The Nelson County Healthy Community Initiative’s Medical Access Action Team identified a critical gap in care for uninsured and underinsured persons. Approximately 12 percent of the population is uninsured, and an undetermined number of residents are underinsured. The Nelson County Free Clinic will provide free, limited medical care, as well as pharmacy services and health education, to county residents who have limited income and are working, are seeking work or have been laid off from a job. The clinic, staffed by a nurse practitioner, an executive director and volunteers, will provide approximately 2,500 patient visits in its first year; in the second year, patient visits should increase to 3,500.

**Pathways to Health**
Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center
Lincoln, Nebraska
$197,265

A health care access study completed by Saint Elizabeth revealed health disparities and difficulties in accessing the health care system in Lincoln. From 2002 to 2003, residents who reported “no health insurance” increased from 8.8 to 12.8 percent, and 9.5 percent of the population reported they could not see a doctor because of the cost. Health Partners Initiative, a health coalition that includes Saint Elizabeth, will seek to reduce health disparities in Lincoln by improving access to care through the Pathways to Health project, which will use a proven model called Community Outcome Production. The goal is to develop outcome pathways that will make it possible for people at the greatest risk for poor health outcomes to access quality health care.

**Youth Obesity Program**
Mercy Medical Center
Williston, North Dakota
$194,080

Due to a number of risk factors in the community, young people in Williston have a 25 percent greater-than-average chance of becoming obese; currently, 53 percent of youth in the area are considered obese. The Youth Obesity Program will be modeled in part on a successful approach implemented in another part of the state by a coalition that includes St. Joseph’s Hospital and Health Center of Dickinson. The program will provide wellness programming, health education, nutrition coaching and health maintenance assistance to obese children. The program will focus on middle school students, helping them to learn to avoid choices that could contribute to future weight and health problems. Goals include a 10 to 15 percent increase in the cardiovascular endurance of participants, along with a 10 percent decrease in their body fat.
**International Grants**

**Bach Mai Hospital Project, Vietnam**

St. Anthony Hospitals  
Denver, Colorado  
$300,000 (over three years)

In Vietnam, strains on government finances mean that high quality health care is available only to those who can personally afford it. Through a sister-to-sister relationship between St. Anthony Hospitals and Bach Mai Hospital in Hanoi, this project will strive to accomplish two goals: to create systemic change in the Vietnamese health care system by providing training to Bach Mai’s physicians; and, by providing the hospital with current medical equipment and supplies to help care for the poor and underserved in Hanoi and the surrounding provinces. The University of Colorado and the University of Michigan have joined with St. Anthony Hospitals to provide medical rotations for fellows from Bach Mai. The program’s goal is to achieve improvement in vital health indicators in the area served by the Vietnamese hospital.

**Village Wellness Project, Tanzania**

St. Joseph Medical Center  
Towson, Maryland  
$161,532 (over three years)

Extreme poverty fuels a devastating cycle of deadly, yet preventable, disease in the Karatu district of Tanzania. With 15 health workers deployed in the area, The Village Wellness Project already has two years of documented success in providing health screenings and medical treatment to 70,000 of the world’s poorest citizens. Now, the program will take on two of the region’s most serious health challenges: water-borne diseases and malnutrition. The project will implement water filtration and sanitation technologies; distribute food and income-producing farm animals to area residents; upgrade and consolidate village health dispensaries; and provide hygiene and nutrition awareness workshops. The project will use measurement techniques such as pre/post intervention comparison studies and a project/process analysis to help gauge the effectiveness of its work.

**Medical Mission to Haiti**

St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center  
Pueblo, Colorado  
$150,000 (over three years)

Abject poverty, large-scale natural disasters and political unrest have meant that Haiti has been unable to develop a health care infrastructure sufficient to meet the needs of its population. Fewer than 50 hospitals nationwide serve a population of more than eight million people; there are only 25 physicians for every 100,000 residents. Subsistence-level incomes and transportation challenges are additional barriers to health care. Volunteer teams from St. Mary-Corwin will build on resources developed during five previous mission trips to the city of Gonaives to increase access to care and expand local capacity to deliver medical services. St. Mary-Corwin will work with its on-site partners in Gonaives, including Hospital Providence and St. Basil’s Church, to monitor local residents’ access to surgical care and an increased range of primary health services.

**Diabetes Education Partnership: TriHealth and Comboni Clinic, Guatemala**

TriHealth  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
$36,459 (over three years)

Diabetes has been identified as an underlying health issue in the Guatemalan community of Mixco by Sarah Mulligan, SC, who has lived there and facilitated the rapid expansion of the Comboni Clinic for the past ten years. TriHealth will work with Sister Sarah and her colleagues at the clinic to develop a community outreach program and materials that will help manage diabetes in the community. Program goals include building the capacity of community members to self-manage adult-onset diabetes; increasing access to self-testing materials and medications; and providing an opportunity for TriHealth staff to collaborate with local clinicians and learn effective outreach techniques. The program will assess its outcomes in part by measuring its success in attracting 50 additional people to educational meetings in year one and 25 more in each of years two and three.
Planning Grants

Nebraska City Healthy Communities
St. Mary’s Community Hospital
Nebraska City, Nebraska
$48,862

This Healthy Community Initiative was a key factor in Nebraska City being named the winner of the 2005 Otto Hoiberg Award for the best community in the state of Nebraska. Now in its third year, this established healthy community coalition will complete action plans for each of three identified priorities: transportation, healthy families and basic needs. These plans will be combined into a community-wide action plan that will also address requirements for sustainability. A formal plan will be developed to communicate the action plan to the community at large. The coalition also plans to develop, publish and distribute a community resource directory based on the results of its asset mapping efforts.

Healthy Community Coalition
Oakes Community Hospital
Oakes, North Dakota
$7,513

Healthy Community Coalition
Lisbon Area Health Services
Lisbon, North Dakota
$7,513

In their respective communities, Oakes Community Hospital and Lisbon Area Health Services will unify local efforts to build a healthier community. Past efforts in both communities have been unsuccessful due to lack of funding and of community involvement. Now, each health care organization will help form an active, broad-based healthy community coalition. With guidance from a professional facilitator, each coalition will create a vision; identify existing resources; establish priorities; develop an action plan; and monitor the implementation of the plan. The coalitions will include representatives from health care providers, churches, schools, community organizations and more. In the first year, each coalition will complete an asset mapping process, create teams and provide education on healthy community building to members of the community.
Saint Francis Wins Psychologically Healthy Workplace Award

Saint Francis Medical Center, Grand Island, Neb., received the first Nebraska Psychologically Healthy Workplace Award from the Nebraska Psychological Association (NPA). According to the NPA, Saint Francis documented a number of financial and statistical benefits since beginning an improvement program in 2000, including improved employee satisfaction, reduced turnover and reduced job vacancies. The hospital also saw a significant drop in mental health insurance costs for employees during a four-year period. The NPA award makes Saint Francis eligible for additional honors from the American Psychological Association. For more information, contact Bob Bonnell of Saint Francis at bbonnell@sfmc-gi.org.

Performance

First Kentucky Excellence Award Presented to Saint Joseph

Saint Joseph HealthCare, Lexington, Ky., is the first organization in the state to win a Kentucky Excellence Award from the Kentucky Center for Performance Excellence. The center sponsors the annual Kentucky Awards Program, which recognizes organizations for progress and achievement on the journey to performance excellence. The Kentucky Excellence Award is the program’s highest level of recognition, recognizing high-performance organizations with world-class processes that can serve as models for others. The Kentucky Awards Program is based on The Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence, which is the basis for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award process. For more information, contact Jeff Murphy of Saint Joseph at murphyjr@sjhlex.org.

Gene Woods (fourth from left), president and chief executive officer of Saint Joseph HealthCare, accepted the first Kentucky Excellence Award presented by the Kentucky Awards Program.

Quality

Two Market-Based Organizations Receive Patient Safety Awards

Memorial Health Care System, Chattanooga, Tenn., and St. Joseph Medical Center, Towson, Md., each received a 2006 Distinguished Hospital Award for Patient Safety from HealthGrades. In its 2006 patient safety study, HealthGrades found that Medicare patients at top-ranked hospitals in terms of patient safety had, on average, 43 percent fewer patient safety incidents compared to bottom-ranked hospitals. If all hospitals performed at the level of the top 15 percent, 280,134 fewer patient safety incidents and 44,153 fewer deaths among Medicare patients would have occurred. States that performed better than expected included several states in which Catholic Health Initiatives has hospitals, including Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Clinical Excellence Awards Given to Four Market-Based Organizations

Four of Catholic Health Initiatives’ market-based organizations received a 2006 Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence Award from HealthGrades: Mercy Medical Center, Roseburg, Ore.; Memorial Health Care System, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Penrose-St. Francis Health Services, Colorado Springs, Colo.; and Saints Mary and Elizabeth Hospital, Louisville, Ky. HealthGrades’ fourth annual study of hospital quality and clinical excellence found that patients checking into these and other hospitals rated in the top five percent in the country have, on average, a 27 percent lower chance of mortality and a 14 percent lower risk of complications.
Joint Replacement Center in Council Bluffs Recognized for Excellence

The Joint Replacement Center at Alegent Health-Mercy Hospital, Council Bluffs, Iowa, received the 2006 Premier Award for Quality from Premier, an alliance of approximately 1,500 hospitals and health systems. The Mercy Hospital Joint Replacement Center is the only orthopedic center in Southwest Iowa and Nebraska, and one of only six in the nation, to be recognized by Premier as a top performer in hip and knee replacement procedures. The center scored high marks for indicators such as length of stay, pain management, surgical outcomes, data management and overall operational efficiency. For more information, contact Lora Ullerich of Alegent Health at lullerich@alegent.org.

Stroke Center Certified at St. Joseph in Towson

St. Joseph Medical Center, Towson, Md., was certified as a Primary Stroke Center with Distinction by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). "JCAHO reviewed St. Joseph’s Stroke Center and found no recommendations for change, which is very rare and resulted in the Certificate with Distinction," said Anna Aycock, RN, BSN, coordinator of the center. In addition, JCAHO is using some of St. Joseph’s materials, including information packets for emergency physicians and rapid response teams, as examples of best practices for a stroke center. For more information, contact Vivienne Stearns-Elliott of St. Joseph at 410/337-1536.

St. Catherine Wound Care Center Named “Best of the Best”

The Wound Care Center at St. Catherine Hospital, Garden City, Kan., was named the Best of the Best in Wound Care Centers by Curative Health Services. The center’s healing outcome was more than 94 percent and patient satisfaction was 95 percent for 2005. The center is the sole provider in western Kansas, eastern Colorado and the Oklahoma panhandle of interdisciplinary, comprehensive chronic wound management that includes hyperbaric oxygen treatment. For more information, contact Janie Wimmer of St. Catherine at janiewimmer@catholichealth.net.

Two Receive Best Acute Care Hospital Award

Mercy Medical Center, Nampa, Idaho, and Mercy Medical Center-Des Moines, Des Moines, Iowa, received the Best Acute Care Hospital Award from Total Benchmark Solution, LLC. “This honor only goes to the top-performing quality hospitals in the U.S.,” said Bradley Petersen, chair and founder of Total Benchmark Solution. The award is based on quality data provided by U.S. health care organizations to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in 2004. Total Benchmark Solution, based in Colorado Springs, Colo., and South Bend, Ind., is a provider of benchmarking, decision support and consulting services for health care organizations.

Saint Elizabeth’s Chest Pain Center, Echocardiography Lab Accredited

The Chest Pain Center at Saint Elizabeth Health Systems, Lincoln, Neb., received accreditation from the Society of Chest Pain Centers. Saint Elizabeth and Good Samaritan Health Systems, Kearney, are now the only two accredited chest pain centers in the state. In addition, the Saint Elizabeth Echocardiography Laboratory received accreditation from the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Labs.
Jackson Organization Announces Client Awards

The Jackson Organization announced its 2005 client awards in May, with Catholic Health Initiatives’ market-based organizations taking several honors. The Jackson Organization administers patient, employee and medical staff satisfaction and consumer studies for Catholic Health Initiatives. Market-based organizations that won awards include:

**Overall Employee Satisfaction and Engagement**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>First Place</th>
<th>Second Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Small (less than 750 employees)</strong></td>
<td>Our Lady of the Way Hospital, Martin, Ky.</td>
<td>Gettysburg Medical Center, Gettysburg, S.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Medium (750 to 1,500 employees)</strong></td>
<td>Mercy Medical Center, Roseburg, Ore.</td>
<td>Mercy Medical Center, Williston, N.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Large (more than 1,500 employees)</strong></td>
<td>St. Vincent Health System, Little Rock, Ark.</td>
<td>St. Joseph Berea, Berea, Ky.</td>
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**Overall Inpatient Satisfaction**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<th>Second Place</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Small (less than 100 beds)</strong></td>
<td>St. Gabriel’s Hospital, Little Falls, Minn.</td>
<td>Mercy Medical Center, Williston, N.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medium (100 to 249 beds)</strong></td>
<td>Saint Francis Medical Center, Grand Island, Neb.</td>
<td>Mercy Medical Center, Williston, N.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Large (250 or more beds)</strong></td>
<td>Memorial Hospital, Chattanooga, Tenn.</td>
<td>Mercy Medical Center, Williston, N.D.</td>
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**Consumer (highest brand equity score in the primary service area)**

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<th>Area</th>
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**Unit-Specific Awards**

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<th>Category</th>
<th>First Place</th>
<th>Second Place</th>
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<tr>
<td>Maternity</td>
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<td>Mercy Medical Center, Williston, N.D.</td>
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<td>Mercy Medical Center, Williston, N.D.</td>
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<td>Oncology</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Same Day Surgery</td>
<td>St. Anthony Health Care Center, Morrilton, Ark.</td>
<td>Mercy Medical Center, Williston, N.D.</td>
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<td>Our Lady of the Way Hospital, Martin, Ky.</td>
<td>Mercy Medical Center, Williston, N.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiology</td>
<td>St. Joseph Medical Center, Towson, Md.</td>
<td>Mercy Medical Center, Williston, N.D.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

St. Anthony Central Verified as Level I Trauma Center

St. Anthony Central Hospital, Denver, Colo., part of Centura Health, was verified as a Level I trauma center by the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons. The verification recognizes a trauma center’s dedication to providing optimal care for injured patients. St. Anthony Central is Colorado’s largest nonprofit Level I trauma center and the home of Flight for Life, the nation’s first hospital-based emergency medical helicopter program.

Cancer Center at St. Mary-Corwin Approved by Commission on Cancer

The Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons granted three-year approval with commendation to the cancer program at St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center’s Dorcy Cancer Center, Pueblo, Colo. The hospital received the approval after an on-site evaluation by a physician surveyor. “We work diligently to ensure that we provide the highest level of quality cancer care, and we make this evident during the evaluation process and review of our performance every three years,” said Joel Ohlsen, MD, medical director of cancer services at St. Mary-Corwin. For more information, contact Jillian Maes of St. Mary-Corwin at jillianmaes@centura.org.
Growth

Mercy Opens New Hospital in Durango
The new Mercy Regional Medical Center, Durango, Colo., opened June 27. The 82-bed hospital replaced a facility that provided patient care for 124 years. A dedication celebration held Saturday, June 17, included an open house, flag-raising ceremony and live music. “We’re excited to continue Mercy’s legacy of care in a new building where we can provide a better healing environment and will have room to grow,” said Kirk Dignum, president and chief executive officer of Mercy. Mercy Regional Medical Center, designed as a “healing environment,” features private patient rooms, a healing garden, a labyrinth, a history wall, and advanced technology for medical records, diagnostic imaging and more. For more information, contact David Bruzese of Mercy at davidbruzzese@mercydurango.org.

Senior Wellness Program Succeeds in Colorado Springs
The Senior Wellness Program of the Front Range and Plains, a program of SET of Colorado Springs, Colo., held 1,400 wellness events attended by a total of more than 15,000 seniors during the 2006 fiscal year. The program is supported by a grant from the Catholic Health Initiatives Mission and Ministry Fund. The wellness events, which included dances, community walks, spaghetti dinners, computer classes and more, were organized by 30 teams of seniors across 14 counties. Each team received a $500 grant from SET to fund and promote its events. For more information, contact Zelna Joseph, chief executive officer of SET of Colorado Springs, at zelnajoseph@centura.org.

Saint Joseph Receives Approval for Ambulatory Care Center
The Kentucky Certificate of Need Office approved an application from Saint Joseph Healthcare to establish an ambulatory care center in Jessamine County, Ky. The center will include an emergency room that will be open 24 hours a day. The facility will be built to hospital standards and code so that inpatient beds can be added in the future, if the state approves and the need exists. Saint Joseph anticipates opening the center by 2008. For more information, contact Jeff Murphy of Saint Joseph at jmurphy@sjhlex.org.

Ground Breaking Held in Oakes
Oakes Community Hospital, Oakes, N.D., broke ground on May 19 for a 35,000-square-foot replacement hospital, scheduled for completion in fall 2007. Hospital employees, community members, community leaders and representatives from the offices of U.S. Senators Kent Conrad and Byron Dorgan attended the ceremony. A community fund drive obtained $1.2 million in pledges for the $9.8 million hospital. For more information, contact Brad Burris, president and chief executive officer of Oakes Community Hospital, at bradburris@catholichealth.net.

A waterfall is part of the Healing Garden at the new Mercy Regional Medical Center, Durango, Colo. Additional features that contribute to the hospital’s healing environment include a walkable labyrinth; a museum-like history wall that chronicles Mercy’s 124-year legacy of care; and an art collection made possible through donations.

The ground breaking ceremony for the new Oakes Community Hospital was attended by (from left) Diane Traffas, OP, vice president of mission, Catholic Health Initiatives; Rose Sell, chair of the board of Oakes Community Hospital; Brad Burris, president and chief executive officer, Oakes Community Hospital; Tim Forward, vice chair of the board of Oakes Community Hospital; and Bernie Voule, a member of the Oakes community who donated land for the new hospital.
Penrose-St. Francis Breaks Ground for New Medical Center
Penrose-St. Francis Health Services, Colorado Springs, Colo., broke ground for the new St. Francis Medical Center on June 29. The 350,000-square-foot medical center is slated to open in 2008 with 158 beds and the capacity to increase to 300 beds. The facility will include a Level III neonatal intensive care unit, a cardiac catheterization lab, and inpatient and outpatient surgical services. It will also serve as Flight for Life program headquarters. For more information, contact Tanya Dantzler of Penrose-St. Francis at tanyadantzler@centura.org.

Good Samaritan in Dayton Celebrates Campus Improvements
Good Samaritan Hospital, Dayton, Ohio, showcased a new parking garage, an enclosed walkway, all-season gardens and other campus improvements at an event on May 11 that also highlighted the Phoenix Project, a collaborative effort by Good Samaritan and the city of Dayton to revitalize the neighborhood around the hospital. The goals of the Phoenix Project include promoting home ownership and home improvement in the neighborhood, as well as improving the appearance and function of upper Salem Avenue, which serves as a gateway to the hospital and the Fairview neighborhood.

St. Joseph in Reading Receives $1 Million Gift
St. Joseph Medical Center, Reading, Pa., received a $1 million donation from DeLight and Helen Breidegam. The donation will assist with the construction of St. Joseph’s new campus and reuse of the old campus. Helen Breidegam attended nursing school at St. Joseph in the 1940s, then worked as a registered nurse on the maternity unit for four years. “It (St. Joseph) has been one of the greatest things in my life,” she said. The new campus in Bern Township is scheduled to open in November 2006. For more information, contact Michael Jupina at michaeljupina@catholichealth.net.

Bed Tower Renovations Complete at St. John’s
A major bed tower renovation project at St. John’s Regional Medical Center, Joplin, Mo., was completed in June. The fourth, fifth and sixth floors were remodeled to create a more comfortable environment for patients and medical staff. The renovation is the first phase of an eight-year, $80 million master facility plan. For more information, contact Bre LaFerla at blaferla@stj.com.

Announcements

Peggy Egan, OSF, Resigns from Catholic Health Initiatives
Peggy Egan, OSF, vice president of mission and healthy communities, announced her resignation from Catholic Health Initiatives. “Sister Peggy has been an instrumental force in the evolution of Catholic Health Initiatives since its formation,” said Tom Kopfensteiner, STD, senior vice president of mission for Catholic Health Initiatives. Among her many accomplishments, Sister Peggy played a vital role in the creation of Catholic Health Initiatives’ healthy community strategy. She will return to her congregation, the Sisters of St. Francis, and her home in Philadelphia, Pa., in August.

Black Resigns from Catholic Health Initiatives
David Black, vice president of leadership and culture development, announced his resignation from Catholic Health Initiatives. “By creating our existing comprehensive leadership development process, Dave has given the Human Resources Group a legacy to uphold and move forward,” said Herb Vallier, chief human resources officer. Black has worked in Catholic health care for 31 years, including serving as vice president of human resources at four of Catholic Health Initiatives’ market-based organizations.
Linnes Named Chief Executive Officer of St. John’s

Debbie Linnes was named president and chief executive officer of St. John’s Regional Medical Center, Joplin, Mo. She served as interim chief executive officer since February 2006, and was previously senior vice president and chief operating officer since July 2003. Prior to joining St. John’s, Linnes was senior vice president of patient services at St. Mary’s Hospital in Grand Junction, Colo., and vice president of clinical services at Marian Medical Center, Santa Maria, Calif.

Gaughan Named Vice President, Ministry Formation

Patrick Gaughan has joined Catholic Health Initiatives as vice president, ministry formation. He was previously corporate director of mission integration for Alexian Brothers Health System, Arlington Heights, Ill. He has a master’s degree in hospital and health administration from Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio, and a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Northern Illinois University. He is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He will be based in the Denver office.

Three Appointed to Baldrige Board of Examiners

Three Catholic Health Initiatives employees were appointed to the 2006 Board of Examiners for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The award is the highest level of national recognition for performance excellence that a U.S. organization can receive. The three newly-appointed examiners are Pat Demarest, director of quality resources, Mercy Medical Center, Durango, Colo.; Maryann Reese, chief operating officer and chief nursing officer at Mercy Medical Center, Nampa, Idaho; and Mike Stoecklein, senior operations consultant for Catholic Health Initiatives, who is based in the Minneapolis, Minn., office. As examiners, the three are responsible for reviewing and evaluating applications for the Baldrige Award. The Board of Examiners is comprised of approximately 500 leading experts selected from industry, professional, trade, education, health care and government organizations.

Fordyce Named Chair of Centura Board

Michael Fordyce, chief administrative officer for Catholic Health Initiatives, was named chair of the Board of Trustees of Centura Health, Englewood, Colo. Fordyce succeeds Kevin Lofton, president and chief executive officer of Catholic Health Initiatives, who served as chair since November 2004.

Centura Health Receives Spirit of Medicine Award

Centura Health, Englewood, Colo., received the Spirit of Medicine Award from the Colorado Physician Health Program (CPHP). CPHP is an independent, nonprofit organization that provides peer assistance services to physicians and physician assistants licensed in Colorado. Centura Health received the Spirit of Medicine Award because of its commitment to support CPHP by being an advocate and significant contributor to its programs. “We are proud to support CPHP and commend their work within the medical community,” said Terry O’Rourke, MD, chief medical officer for Centura Health. “CPHP is a vital resource that helps ensure the well-being of Colorado physicians.”

Tolson Named Vice President, Strategic Talent Management

Rick Tolson was named vice president, strategic talent management for Catholic Health Initiatives, effective July 31. He succeeds Dave Black, vice president of leadership and culture development, who will be leaving Catholic Health Initiatives later this summer. Tolson was previously vice president, human resources at Saint Joseph HealthCare, Lexington, Ky., where he also led educational services, the School of Radiology, the Health Science Library, the Children’s Center, nutrition services, environmental services and laundry. He will be based in the Northern Kentucky office.

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