



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Friends of St. Mary's Hospital Launch Capital Campaign to Build an Exceptional Future

DECATUR, IL – The Friends of St. Mary's Hospital Foundation today publically launched an ambitious capital fundraising campaign, *Building an Exceptional Future*, with a goal of raising a total of \$10 million from community partners for a \$31 million redevelopment project that will enhance patient care, comfort and service.

The construction project, which will cover a total of 94,125 square feet of new service space when completed in 2011, is the first part of a three-phase, \$70 million redevelopment of the St. Mary's campus that will meet the changing health care needs of patients and their families. The initial phase includes a new Emergency Department, Main Lobby, Clinical Laboratory and parking surfaces with egress and ingress.

"The hospital's advances in technology, services, prudent financial management and an exemplary staff have all combined to achieve extraordinary progress," said Kevin F. Kast, President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Mary's Hospital. "Now the time has arrived when we must make significant improvements in our facilities in order to match the exceptional quality of health care that all receive at St. Mary's Hospital. This major project will ensure that our hospital remains an exceptional regional health care resource for decades to come."

The initial portion of the community fundraising effort has generated more than \$7.5 million of the \$10 million goal. Of the amount raised thus far, the St. Mary's family – employees, board members, hospital volunteers and auxiliary and physicians – has given \$2.5 million.

To generate the final \$2.5 million needed to reach the campaign's goal, a variety of giving opportunities and special events within the community will be announced in the near future.

Funding for all phases of the St. Mary's redevelopment project will be a partnership between the community, the hospital and Hospital Sisters Health System, which sponsors St. Mary's and thirteen other hospitals in Illinois and Wisconsin. For Phase One of the St. Mary's redevelopment, HSHS has dedicated \$14 million raised through the sale of bonds and St. Mary's is dedicating \$7 million from the hospital's working capital and cash reserves.

"This project truly is a partnership for the betterment of Decatur and the Mission of the Hospital Sisters," said Jon Robinson, a member of the St. Mary's Board of Directors and co-vice chair of the hospital's capital campaign committee. "Essentially, the Sisters are contributing roughly \$2.50 for every \$1 we raise. That's two-thirds of the total cost of the project."

For Macon County, the \$31 million redevelopment project could add a total benefit of approximately \$75 million. \$20 million would be in construction costs with 60% allotted to mechanical, electrical and plumbing materials and installation. That 60% (or \$12 million) would be handled locally. In jobs, this project would have up to 280 people related directly to construction and 100 jobs related indirectly to needs by suppliers. These jobs would also be provided for locally.

Kevin Breheny, Chairman of the St. Mary's Hospital Board of Directors, noted that St. Mary's is an integral part of the fabric of the Decatur area and the new additions will strengthen those bonds. "St. Mary's excellent services and desire to care for the poor and offer programs that the community needs – regardless of profitability – are very important," Mr. Breheny said. "The hospital also is an economic engine, employing more than 1,200 people, consuming local products and services."

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