



***For immediate release***

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**ST. JOSEPH HEALTH SYSTEM'S CHARITY CARE EXCEEDS \$1.8 MILLION**

St. Joseph Health System provided more than \$1.8 million in charity care and community benefit programs in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, according to figures recently released.

The 2008-2009 financial report for community benefit covers four categories of charity programs and services including:

- Traditional charity care provided in the course of normal operations, excluding bad debts and contractual allowance (\$353,088)
- Unpaid cost of public programs, including unreimbursed care from Medicaid or other state and local programs (\$949,207)
- Other programs which were developed with the stated intent to serve persons who are poor in the community (\$317,067)
- Other programs and services for the general community which include spiritual care and other volunteer service components of the health system (\$230,660)

St. Joseph Health System provides a substantial portion of its services to the elderly and poor. Approximately 53.99% of the value of services rendered were to elderly patients under the Medicare program and approximately 13.07 % of the services were provided to patients who were deemed eligible under state, county or health system financial assistance guidelines.

“Our concern for all human life and the dignity of each person leads the organization to provide medical services to all people in the community without regard to the patient’s race, creed, national origin, economic status or the ability to pay, said Sister Rita Ann Teichman, Vice President of Mission Integration at St. Joseph Health System.

Some of the major sources of community benefit over the past fiscal year included: Cover the Uninsured Week, sponsored by St. Joseph’s HealthKey program which provided food for 400 families, free women’s health educational seminars sponsored by St. Joseph Women’s Center, discounted rates for sports physicals and free skin cancer screenings.

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In addition, healthcare providers volunteer their time to speak on a variety of health issues to groups throughout the service area including topics such as: adult and child CPR, diabetes, prescription drug education and safety, weight management and healthy food and aging.

For more information about St. Joseph Health System's community benefit activities, or for a copy of the community benefit annual report, contact Rachel L. Estabrook, Director of Communication and Outreach Services at (989) 362-9375.

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