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## NEW MERCY HEALTH SYSTEM TO IMPROVE CARE, STRENGTHEN LINKS BETWEEN GRAND RAPIDS & MUSKEGON

### *FOCUS ON BROADENING ACCESS TO CARE AND KEY SPECIALTIES*

**Grand Rapids & Muskegon, Mich., August 9, 2011** – Saint Mary's Health Care in Grand Rapids and Mercy Health Partners in Muskegon today announced their intention to establish a multi-location healthcare system in West Michigan under the name Mercy Health.

The Mercy Health system will provide more services across the region, better communication with patients and healthcare providers, and easier access to specialists.

The system will include all hospitals, outpatient clinical service sites, and physician network locations that serve the Grand Rapids metro area and the lakeshore. The system will offer the expertise of more than 1,000 physicians and other providers at:

- Saint Mary's hospital, The Lacks Cancer Center, and The Hauenstein Neuroscience Center, and The Wege Institute for Mind, Body and Spirit, all in downtown Grand Rapids
- Saint Mary's Southwest in Byron Center
- Advantage Health / Saint Mary's Medical Group, with locations throughout the Grand Rapids metro area
- Mercy Health Partners General, Hackley and Mercy campuses, and the Johnson Family Cancer Center, all in Muskegon
- Mercy Health Partners Lakeshore Campus in Shelby
- Mercy Health Partners Lakes Campus in Norton Shores
- Mercy Health Partners Physician Network, with locations throughout the lakeshore area
- And outpatient clinical services such as workplace health, outpatient rehab, home health, and hospice.

The decision to create a formal regional system was made after discussions among the founding hospital systems, supported by market research, revealed that a unique opportunity exists because of a shared vision, mission, and values, as well as commitment to personalized health care. "Working together, we can offer better service, better communication between patients and providers, and more access to services and to specialists," commented Roger Spoelman, Regional Executive, Mercy Health and President and CEO of Mercy Health Partners.

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The healthcare organizations are developing a structure that will enable them to better coordinate care. “We are already known for our commitment to care that is centered on the patient;” commented Philip H. McCorkle, Jr., President and CEO of Saint Mary’s Health Care. “Coming together as a system will enable us to work more closely together to deliver even better service for our patients and an experience that’s right for them.”

Each organization will retain its own identity, culture, medical staffs, management structure, and commitment to local communities. Together they will focus on finding ways to deliver a wider range of services in each market. The organizations will acknowledge the regional system through use of a tagline indicating membership in Mercy Health (e.g., Saint Mary’s Health Care — a Member of Mercy Health).

Mercy Health was selected as the name because of the shared history of the Mercy name in all organizations. The name Mercy connotes a culture that is grounded in a spirit that focuses on bringing healing to all in need and caring for others with a genuine hospitality, compassion, and inclusivity. “Mercy takes us back to the founding of both healthcare organizations,” said McCorkle. “It reminds us and our communities of the fact that not only do we have expertise in delivering care, but also deliver our care with compassion.”

The new Mercy Health system will be phased in over the next 12 to 24 months and be guided by representatives from Saint Mary’s Health Care and Mercy Health Partners. A committee composed of board members and physicians from each organization has been working to develop a plan that will outline strategies to create stronger alignment for the organizations. The plan will be completed this fall.

“This move is really a natural next step for Muskegon and Grand Rapids, as the level of cooperation and communication has steadily increased across both organizations over the past two years,” said Spoelman. “As we worked together, we realized how much more we could do for our own patients and our own communities harnessing our collective strengths. It is an exciting and important step for our organizations and those we serve.”

Spoelman noted that Mercy Hospital – Cadillac and Mercy Hospital – Grayling will join the Mercy Health system later this year, and that Mercy Health will continue its established history of collaboration and partnership with Munson Healthcare in Northern Michigan.

Commented Rick O’Connell, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Hospital Networks for Trinity Health, “As one of the largest Catholic healthcare systems in the country, Trinity Health encourages its regional systems to align more closely together, as our hospitals have done in Idaho, Ohio and southeast Michigan. We believe this new model will greatly benefit our patients and physicians in the communities we serve.”

#### **About Mercy Health Partners**

Mercy Health Partners is a teaching hospital and the second largest health system in West Michigan with more than 4,000 associates, and some 20,000 inpatient discharges and 140,000 emergency/urgent care visits annually. The system has four hospital campuses, 375 physicians, and offers a number of exclusive specialty physician care services for the region.

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**Saint Mary's Health Care** is an integrated network of health care excellence offering a unique combination of capabilities to deliver a health care experience that is more complete and personally satisfying. Our commitment to offer the latest technology and most highly skilled physicians in a holistic, patient-centered environment has made us a progressive leader in cancer care, neuroscience, orthopedics, diabetes and endocrine care, kidney transplants, and integrative health care.

The network encompasses more than 2,400 employees, a 344-bed, The Joint Commission-accredited teaching hospital, The Lacks Cancer Center, The Wege Institute: Mind, Body and Spirit, the Center for Diabetes and Endocrinology, the Neuroscience Program, three fitness centers, five community outreach centers and affiliations with home health care, rehabilitation services, and the area's premier primary care network, Advantage Health Physician Network. Saint Mary's has several times been awarded the Governor's Award of Excellence and named one of West Michigan's 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For. Saint Mary's is a member of Trinity Health, the country's fourth-largest Catholic health care system.

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