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For Immediate Release

Saint John Hospital: Serving the community well into the future

When the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth welcomed their first patients to Saint John Hospital in March 1864, the building was not yet completed. The Sisters treated their patients with skill and compassion, despite the fact that some of their supplies had not yet arrived. Today, the Sisters' legacy is still evident throughout the hospital. Also evident are the many changes that have occurred in the delivery of health care in the 21st century.

In Spring 2007, Saint John installed an advanced 16-slice computed tomography (CT) scanner. "The system includes enhanced features for greater patient comfort and safety, faster exam times and improved image quality for speedier diagnosis," says Greg Madsen, Saint John Administrator. "This is particularly important when determining the extent of injuries in trauma cases, where every second counts. Early detection with this scanner can result in faster, more effective diagnosis and treatment."

Saint John's Surgery Department has also added state-of-the-art laparoscopic equipment during the past year. "The equipment provides our surgeons with high definition, high quality images of the area being operated on," Madsen explains. "The benefits to the patient are smaller incisions, decreased tissue trauma and decreased recovery time."

For the Emergency Room (ER), the hospital recently licensed the most comprehensive emergency department information system available, the T SystemEV® Version 2.6 from T-System, Inc. According to Carmen Patty, R.N., M.S.N., M.B.A., Saint John's new Chief Nursing Officer, facilities using the T SystemEV have seen door-to-doctor times decrease by as much as 40 minutes.

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“It’s the goal of our emergency department to treat patients quickly so they can get back to their day-to-day lives faster,” she says. “With this new system, the average length of stay in the emergency department can decrease from more than four hours to about two and one-half.”

Patty explains that the T SystemEV includes several advantages. “Doctors and nurses have easy access to information about a patient’s possible condition,” she says. “This allows more efficient assessment of a patient’s illness or injury, expedites treatment and decreases waiting time. Also, each patient’s visit is stored on the main computer server and is immediately available to doctors and nurses if the patient returns for care.” The system can track patients from arrival through discharge, alerting staff if wait times are becoming too long. “It also informs staff about the patient’s status and location, and is available for the Lab, Radiology or other clinic departments to schedule tests and procedures right from the patient’s bedside,” she adds.

The addition of Patty’s position as Chief Nursing Officer, along with another new position, Security supervisor, reinforces the hospital’s commitment to providing high quality care in a safe environment. “We are pleased that Carmen’s experience and the dedication of our expanded Security Department are creating a more healthy and safe facility for everyone who comes here,” Madsen says. “We want all of our patients and visitors to know that they will receive excellent care throughout their stay, whether they are recuperating from an illness, or walking to their car in the parking lot.”

The hospital continues to assess the community’s needs for new physicians. “We are actively recruiting additional obstetricians/gynecologists, orthopaedic surgeons, cardiologists and other specialists to the area,” Madsen says. “We recently added Keith Hodge, M.D., a plastic surgeon, as well as Stephanie Suber, D.O., a family practitioner, to our staff.” Providence Medical Center’s Diabetes Center also offers a Diabetes Management Clinic in the Saint John Medical Plaza once a week. “We hope to be able to provide a full range of services so residents can stay in Leavenworth to receive their health care,” he adds.

According to Madsen, Saint John reached a record number of patients during the second week of March this year. “On a daily basis, we are staffed for 38 beds. But on March 11 we had 56 patients in the hospital,” he explains. “We have never had this many patients at one time before.” He explains that this year’s flu outbreak has put a strain on hospitals all across the country. “We converted some spaces used for other purposes into five new patient rooms during the past month,” he adds. “But we still need more space to accommodate the increasing number of patients we continue to treat,”

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Madsen says that physicians, staff and community members are eager for construction of Saint John's new, \$65 million patient tower to begin. "We are currently working with our architects on the building plans," he explains. "The planning phase has been a slow process. We want to make sure the facility will meet the community's needs for many years to come. We hope to announce the groundbreaking this fall."

"We are pleased to be able to provide advanced health care services to Leavenworth, Lansing and the surrounding areas," Madsen continues. "New medical technology and patient-centered programs enhance the high quality of care our physicians and staff give to Saint John patients. We are proud to continue the Sisters' 150 year legacy of serving the needs of the community well into the future."

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Saint John Hospital

Saint John Hospital has served as the healthcare beacon to the Leavenworth and Lansing community for more than 140 years. Home to 38 staffed beds, quality physicians and compassionate staff, the hospital specializes in women's services including maternity care and gynecology, senior behavioral health, oncology, emergency services, rehabilitation and ambulatory care services, including surgery. Also located on the campus is the Saint John Medical Plaza. Saint John is an affiliate of Providence Medical Center, Kansas City, Kan. and the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System. To learn more, visit www.providence-health.org.