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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hospital Auxiliary Donates \$28,000 to St. James Mercy Foundation

June 27, 2011...Hornell, NY...Members of the St. James Mercy Hospital (SJMH) Auxiliary gathered on Tuesday, June 21, at the Knights of Columbus Hall for the annual Auxiliary Appreciation luncheon to celebrate a milestone in their history with St. James Mercy Hospital. This year's annual gift by the Auxiliary to St. James Mercy Foundation of \$28,000 represents the largest single-year contribution in the Auxiliary's history, which spans 107 years.

In presenting the check to SJMH president and CEO Mary LaRowe, Auxiliary chair Nancy Bartell acknowledged the hard work and persistence of all Auxiliary members in making possible such a generous contribution. "Auxiliary members are always there to step up and support a variety of activities and events, from the annual Christmas Bazaar and Food Fair to volunteering in the Aquinas Gift Shops," said Bartell. "We are pleased to be able to support the hospital and our community in this tangible and effective way."

In accepting the check, LaRowe acknowledged the organization's effectiveness over the years in supporting quality healthcare for the greater Hornell community. "Since its founding in 1904, the Hospital Auxiliary has been St. James Mercy's most generous and persistent donor," said LaRowe. "Without their support and volunteerism, the hospital would not be so well positioned to provide compassionate, accessible care to patients and residents."

A portion of this year's gift will be directed to two important projects at St. James Mercy. The Mercycare Break program at McAuley Manor provides program registrants with medical and personal care, as well as a stimulating social environment. Auxiliary funds will assist in refurbishing the program space with new tables and arm chairs. The School of Radiologic Science is the second beneficiary of this year's gift. The School of Radiologic Science offers an accredited, competency-based, 24-month radiography program to admitted students. Kelly Bracken, director of residential life at McAuley Manor, and Bridget Mayorga, director of the School of Radiologic Science, were the guest speakers at the Auxiliary luncheon.

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Other milestones at the event included honoring Fran Grillo as an “honorary Auxilian” for more than 40 years of active service. Betty Archangeli also was recognized for fifty years of service, and Margaret Cannon also was recognized for 40 years. Mary Patti was honored as the longest serving Auxilian—59 years. Additionally, the Auxiliary members enjoyed a special performance by the Hornell High School jazz and show choirs, under the direction of Chris VanLeeuwen.

St. James Mercy Foundation, the charitable arm of St. James Mercy Hospital, is preparing to launch its annual campaign and counts the Hospital Auxiliary as a mainstay in its ability to support the Hospital. “Every dollar contributed to the St. James Mercy Foundation makes a real difference to the quality of healthcare services available in our community,” Bryant said. “All gifts are appreciated by not only patients but also hospital staff, enhancing the kind of care they are able to provide.”

For more information about the Hospital Auxiliary, visit www.stjamesmercy.org/auxiliary. More information about the St. James Mercy Foundation is available at 607.324.8240, or by visiting www.stjamesmercy.org/foundation.

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Nancy Bartell (right), chair of the St. James Mercy Hospital Auxiliary, presents a check for \$28,000 to Mary LaRowe, president and CEO of St. James Mercy Hospital. This year’s gift to the St. James Mercy Foundation will support the Mercycare Break adult day program at McAuley Manor and also the School of Radiologic Science, in addition to supporting the general fund.



Mary Patti (left) is honored as the longest-serving Auxilian by St. James Mercy Foundation Executive Director, Sylvia Bryant. She joined the Hospital Auxiliary in 1952, 59 years ago, and has been the group historian for many years. Betty Archangeli and Fran Grillo (not pictured) also were honored for their many years of active service and membership—Betty, 50 years; Fran, more than 40 years.



Margaret Cannon is honored for her long service to the Hospital Auxiliary, which she joined 40 years ago. Margaret worked in the Aquinas Gift Shop for many years and trained volunteers on the gift shop cash register—a special challenge when the gift Shop converted to the touch screen computer model!

