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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 3, 2017

**St. James Mercy Launches Cancer Peer Education Program**  
*Awareness of Screening for Breast and Prostate Cancers is Focus*

**Hornell, NY** – St. James Mercy Hospital has filled two new positions for its New York State Breast and Prostate Cancer Peer Education Project.

Kelsey Solo, Program Coordinator, will manage the work plan and budget, relationship and networking opportunities throughout Steuben County, and report progress of the project to the New York State Department of Health. Kelsey also serves as the MercyLine Coordinator for St. James Mercy Hospital.

Sue Dunn, Peer Educator, will provide education and information to men and women throughout Steuben County regarding cancer screenings, specifically related to breast and prostate health. In addition, Sue will work to create relationships with town, city, and county leaders, as well as health/human services agencies to promote the efforts of the program.

Funding for the program was approved in 2016, in a grant to St. James Mercy Hospital from the New York State Department of Health. The Breast and Prostate Peer Education Project is a statewide initiative designed to help underserved women, regardless of insurance status, understand the importance of breast cancer screening and inform men,

regardless of their insurance status, of their risks regarding prostate cancer. The work aims to encourage men and women to visit with their health care providers to discuss their risk of breast or prostate cancer and decide if they should be screened. This is accomplished through peer led, community based education activities.

"We are excited to bring the New York State Breast and Prostate Cancer Peer Education Project to Steuben County," said Laura Vetter, Community Services Supervisor.

"Research proves the importance of awareness around appropriate screenings, so we're pleased to be a part of this state-wide effort to reduce the incidence of these cancers."

For more information about the service, contact Kelsey Solo at 607-324-8139 or Sue Dunn at 607-324-8166.

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