



**Contact: Linda Blauers
Public Relations Specialist
St. James Mercy Hospital**
411 Canisteo Street
Hornell, NY 14843
Phone: 1-607-324-8146
Fax: 1-607-324-8115
Email: lblauers@sjmh.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 22, 2017

**St. James Mercy Hospital Hosts Annual Shoe Drive
to Benefit the Steuben Rural Ministry**

HORNELL, N.Y. – St. James Mercy Hospital hosted its 12th annual St. Nicholas Shoe Drive on December 6 to assist area families in need. Over 75 pairs of shoes were collected as a donation to Sr. Susan Cain and the Steuben Rural Ministry, a Turning Point Program of Catholic Charities. In addition to the shoes, several pairs of new socks, underwear, hats and mittens were also delivered to Sr. Susan.

Feast day of St. Nicholas celebrations began centuries ago across Europe on December 6th. One of the traditions surrounding St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, was for the children to leave their shoes outside their bedroom door so he could fill them with small gifts and treats.

St. James Mercy Hospital has carried out a variation of this tradition by asking employees to bring in gently used shoes, boots, new underwear, hats and mittens to be donated. These items are left outside their workplace door for collection and the St. Nicholas “elves” leave candy as a treat for the generous employees.

###

Pictured below, left to right: Sr. Susan Cain and Laura Vetter, SJMH Community Wellness Coordinator (Head Elf for St. Nicholas)

