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**Contact: Kate Kreger
Director Marketing & Communications
St. James Mercy Hospital**
411 Canisteo Street
Hornell, NY 14843
Phone: 607-324-8233
Fax: 607-324-8115
Email: kkreger@sjmh.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. James Mercy Hospital Unveils New Adult Psychiatric Unit

April 25, 2012...Hornell, NY...St. James Mercy Hospital (SJM) unveiled its newly renovated and relocated 26-bed Adult Psychiatric Unit at a public open house on April 24. The new unit is expected to officially open for patient care in the next few weeks, upon completion of final regulatory inspections.

The new 12,500 ft² Adult Psychiatric Unit is located in the 3 West wing on the Hospital campus in Hornell, and includes eighteen patient rooms (including airborne isolation and handicapped accessible space), two group activities rooms with kitchen, group therapy area, two "comfort" rooms, exam room, and family visiting area.

According to Patricia Uldrich, Chief Nursing Officer, "Our key goals with this project were to create contemporary space to unify SJM's adult inpatient psychiatric services, improve the care experience for patients and their families, and meet or exceed all NYS life safety standards."

The benefits of the new unit are many, said Raja Rao, MD, Chief of Psychiatry. "The sleeping, quiet room quarters, and inpatient day treatment are now located on the same floor. This enhances overall safety and allows better management of patients who have co-existing medical problems. The two 'comfort rooms' feature multi-sensory stimulation tools to help patients learn stress-reducing behaviors, and the larger family space provides more comfort and privacy with a relaxing atmosphere," he said.

Initial work on the Adult Psychiatric Unit project began in 2010. Upon approval of a Certificate of Need application by the New York State Department of Health and the Office of Mental Health, pre-construction upgrades were completed, as well as the construction bid process.

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“There are many people who contributed to the success of this project,” said Mary LaRowe, President and Chief Executive Officer. “We extend our thanks to Pike Construction Co. and their subcontractors, Razak Associates, SJMH Engineering staff, NYS Office of Mental Health, NYS Department of Health, Hornell City Fire Department, and the staff of SJMH who worked diligently throughout the construction. We are also very grateful to our patients, visitors, and staff for their understanding and patience during the loud and inconvenient phases of construction,” she said. Funding assistance for the Adult Psychiatric Unit project was provided by Catholic Health East.

St. James Mercy Hospital is a regional leader in Behavioral Health services that provides inpatient and outpatient care for people with emotional, psychological or chemical dependency disorders. SJMH’s Psychiatric services are accredited by The Joint Commission and licensed by the New York State Department of Health and Office of Mental Health. Visit www.stjamesmercy.org/behavioral-medicine for more information.

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Caption:

Left to right: Patricia Uldrich (Chief Nursing Officer), Gina Reagan (Director of Behavioral Health Services), Raja Rao, MD (Chief of Psychiatry), and Mary LaRowe (President and CEO) cut the ribbon for the newly renovated and relocated Adult Psychiatric Unit at St. James Mercy Hospital.