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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **St. James Mercy Hospital Auxiliary Hosts Annual Holiday Bazaar**

**October 27, 2011...Hornell, NY...** Members of the St. James Mercy Hospital Auxiliary are preparing for the annual Holiday Bazaar, which will be held over two days: Thursday, November 3, from 10am to 1pm, at McAuley Manor, and Friday, November 4, from 9am to 1pm at the Hospital.

“The annual Holiday Bazaar is one of our major fundraising events and offers a wonderful opportunity to get a head start on holiday shopping,” said Nan Racalto, co-chair of the event. “This year will feature several drawings for gifts and prizes, including a lottery ticket basket, a \$100 Christmas money tree, and a hand-crafted afghan, as well as our traditional 50/50 raffle. New this year is a specialty bread sale – with four varieties available for \$2 a loaf.”

Both locations will also feature “New to You” booths, as well as a bake sale. “The bake sale is always very popular,” said Lynne Freeland, co-chair of the event. “Every year, we increase the items we have for sale, and they always go quickly, especially among Hospital employees.” The Aquinas Gift Shops will offer a 15% discount on holiday and other merchandise.

The success of the Bazaar depends on the contributions and hard work of Auxiliary members, including:

- Bake Sale, St. James Mercy – Mary Theresa Purtell, Emma Loree (Hospital);Maureen Galatio, Aileen Mahoney, Dottie Harrington (McAuley Manor)
- New to You—Joan Watches, Jean Pollinger (Hospital); Alice Ingham, Grace Eagan, Eileen Hamelin, Ginny Putnam, Margaret Sleggs (McAuley Manor)
- Specialty bread sale—Fran Grillo

- Raffles—
  - lottery ticket basket raffle, donated by Jan Weyand
  - handmade afghan, donated by Emma Loree
  - money Christmas tree, assembled by Margaret Sleggs
  - arctic snowmen, donated by Hospital gift shop

Racalto and Freeland also co-chair the Hospital Auxiliary, which is seeking new members. “We have a wonderful core membership that dedicates many, many hours to making the Holiday Bazaar a success,” said Freeland. “Without them, we would not be able to do as much to support the Hospital. We are so grateful for their support and commitment, and welcome others to join us.”

Proceeds from the Hospital Bazaar are presented annually to St. James Mercy Foundation to help purchase equipment and support other initiatives of the Hospital. Recent projects made possible in part through the Hospital Auxiliary’s generous gifts include the comfort room for adolescent psychiatric patients and new furnishings for the Mercycare adult day program.

To volunteer or donate goods to the Holiday Bazaar, or for more information about the event or the Hospital Auxiliary, please contact the St. James Mercy Foundation at 607.324.8240.



Gift Shop Coordinator, Liz Surita, poses with the snowmen to be raffled.

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