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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hospital Auxiliary Contributes \$27,300 to St. James Mercy Foundation

July 10, 2013...Hornell, NY...Thirty-three members of the St. James Mercy Hospital (SJMH) Auxiliary gathered on June 11 at the The Main Place/Knights of Columbus for the annual Auxiliary Appreciation luncheon to commemorate their work on behalf of St. James Mercy Hospital. The Auxiliary also presented its annual gift to St. James Mercy Foundation in the amount of \$27,300.

The majority of this year's gift is earmarked toward renovating the second floor at McAuley Manor (SNF2) to create a more home-like environment and wait staff-style dining for residents. "This is a continuation of our extensive 'culture change' project at McAuley Manor to improve comfort for residents and interaction between residents and staff," said Sylvia Bryant, Vice President of Mission Integration and Community Outreach. "The Auxiliary gift is providing the means to transform the physical environment at Mercy Care to lead to better, more meaningful care for residents." The Auxiliary's annual gift will also provide support to SJMH's School of Radiologic Science.

Auxiliary co-chair, Lynne Freeland, acknowledged the tireless work of the volunteers. "Our extraordinary Auxiliary members work very hard to support SJMH through fundraising activities and events, such as the Christmas Bazaar and Food Fair, and by operating the Aquinas Gift Shops," she said. "Their commitment supports many valuable services and programs at the hospital and nursing home, and it's an honor to work with them."

President and CEO Mary LaRowe acknowledged the Auxiliary for its long-time support of the greater Hornell community. "The Auxiliary has been integral to St. James Mercy for well over 100 years. As the single largest donor to the Foundation, the Auxiliary has contributed nearly \$700,000 since its founding in 1904. These dedicated volunteers make it possible for SJMH to continue its mission of serving the poor and disadvantaged who need vital, local healthcare services." New Auxiliary members Carol Gomez and Connie Mullen were welcomed at the luncheon.

For more information about the Hospital Auxiliary or St. James Mercy Foundation, visit www.stjamesmercy.org or call 607.324.8240.

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Caption:

Lynne Freeland (left), co-chair of St. James Mercy Hospital Auxiliary, presents a check for \$27,300 to Mary LaRowe, president and CEO of St. James Mercy Health System. This year's Auxiliary gift to St. James Mercy Foundation will support renovation of SNF2 at McAuley Manor and the School of Radiologic Science.