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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. James Mercy Hospital Auxiliary Contributes Annual Gift of \$22,000

July 11, 2014...Hornell, NY...Forty-six members of the St. James Mercy Hospital (SJM) Auxiliary and special guests gathered on June 10 at The Main Place for the annual Auxiliary appreciation luncheon. The event commemorates the work of Auxiliary volunteers on behalf of St. James Mercy Hospital. In addition, the Auxiliary presented its annual gift to St. James Mercy Foundation in the amount of \$22,000.

Auxiliary chair, Lynne Freeland, acknowledged the tireless work of the Auxiliary members. "Year after year, our dedicated Auxiliary volunteers coordinate a variety of fundraising activities and events, including the Christmas Bazaar, Trees of Life, Food Fair and raffles, as well as operate the Aquinas Gift Shops," she said. "The dollars raised go directly to strengthen healthcare services in our community. This year's gift will support SJM's 'new vision' initiative to transform the organization to an outpatient model of care."

President and CEO Jennifer Sullivan acknowledged the Auxiliary for supporting the greater Hornell community for 110 years. "Since 1904, hundreds of Auxiliary members have provided many thousands of hours of service to St. James Mercy Hospital. As the largest single donor to the Foundation, the Auxiliary has contributed over \$700,000 to purchase equipment, fund new services, and provide scholarships. The Auxiliary and its devoted members allow us to fulfill our mission of serving the poor and disadvantaged who come to us for care."

The appreciation luncheon also included recognition of new members Josie Brown, Diane Dale and Wanda Johnson, and co-chairs Lynne Freeland and Natalina Racalto. SJM staff member Lisa Gardner was also acknowledged for her administrative support to the Auxiliary.

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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