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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **St. James Mercy Hospital Auxiliary Funds New Skeleton for School of Radiological Science**

**December 2, 2011...Hornell, NY...** Thanks to the generous support of the St. James Mercy Hospital Auxiliary, St. James Mercy Hospital's School of Radiological Science has a new skeleton to enhance classroom instruction. The School offers a two-year program for the education of radiography students.

According to director Bridgett Mayorga, the skeleton is an important addition to the program. "To become competent as radiographers, our students train extensively in human anatomy and physiology. The new skeleton provides hands-on instruction and reinforces the textbook learning. We are very appreciative to the Auxiliary for this donation," she said.

"Our Auxiliary members were very enthused about funding this purchase," said Lynne Freeland, Auxiliary president. "They knew it would immediately be put to good use and improve the students' learning experience. The Auxiliary is always pleased to be able to support the Hospital and assist in any way to provide quality, accessible healthcare to our community."

Started in 1949 by Dr. William MacFarland, St. James Mercy Hospital's School of Radiological Science admits fourteen students annually. Through a combination of coursework and clinical experience, the program prepares students to become qualified radiographers and work as diagnostic imaging technicians. More information is available at <http://www.stjamesmercy.org/school.shtml> or by calling 607-324-8265.

In addition to supporting the School of Radiological Science, a portion of the Auxiliary's recent gift funded new furniture for Mercycare Break adult daycare program, as well as scholarships for students of the School. In 2011, the Auxiliary funds also supported the refurbishing of a new "comfort room" in the Adolescent Psychiatric Unit.

Established in 1904 and comprised of volunteers, St. James Mercy Hospital Auxiliary is one of the largest financial supporters of St. James Mercy Hospital. "This year the Auxiliary presented a check in the amount of \$28,000, the largest single-year contribution in its history," said Ms. Freeland. "The money is raised in the Aquinas Gift Shops and from a variety of activities and events."

*More....more....more*

Auxiliary membership is open to anyone wishing to be of service at the Hospital or McAuley Manor. "Auxiliary members and our other volunteers make it possible for St. James Mercy to provide compassionate, accessible care to the community," said Ms. Freeland. "We welcome new volunteers, even if just for a couple of hours a month. Participating in the Auxiliary is a great way to support our community in a tangible and effective way."

For more information about volunteer opportunities at St. James Mercy Hospital, visit <http://www.stjamesmercy.org/auxiliary.shtml> or call 607-324-8147.

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Students Lauren McLaughlin (left) and Chelsea Gregorius practice anatomy identification using the new skeleton funded by the St. James Mercy Hospital Auxiliary.