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Bethesda Grant Awarded to Enhance Emergency Technician Training at St. James Mercy Hospital

April 16, 2014...Hornell, NY...St. James Mercy Hospital (SJMH) has received a grant in the amount of \$5,450 from the Bethesda Foundation to enhance its Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training. The funds will be used to purchase instructional DVD's and interactive equipment used in the classroom to demonstrate the latest EMT skills, techniques and technologies.

"EMS – or Emergency Medical Services – is a vital part of our communities," said Teri Symonds, SJMH course coordinator. "The majority of local residents depend almost exclusively on the services of Emergency Medical Technicians for safe, effective and timely care during medical emergencies. They make a significant contribution to the wellbeing of residents in our rural area."

There are approximately twenty ambulance groups in Steuben County, the majority of which are staffed by EMS volunteers. SJMH sponsors annual EMT certification training for about thirty students by providing instruction, equipment, space and staff supervision. Once certified, the majority of students give back to local communities as EMS volunteers.

"Our goal at SJMH is to provide the most current, student-friendly training," said Jennifer Sullivan, SJMH President & CEO. "We take great pride in preparing these committed individuals for the indispensable role they play in serving others, and we are grateful to the Bethesda Foundation for supporting this essential program."

"Our board of directors fully endorsed the EMT grant request," said Fred Marks, Bethesda Foundation Executive Director. "The proposal clearly outlined the need and positive impact the grant will have to our communities and neighbors." Created in 1986, the Bethesda Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization devoted to the funding and support of health-related projects and scholarships in the Hornell area.

For more information on the Emergency Medical Technician program at St. James Mercy contact Teri Symonds at 607-324-8890 (tsymonds@sjmh.org).

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Bethesda Foundation board member Bill Loree presents a check to SJMH president & CEO Jennifer Sullivan to support St. James Mercy's EMT training program.