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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. James Mercy Announces 2012 “Nurse of Excellence” And “Nursing Assistant of Excellence” Awards During National Nurses’ Week

Hornell, NY – May 6-12 was National Nurses’ Week at St. James Mercy Hospital, highlighted by the announcement of the 2012 “Nurse of Excellence” Award winner, **Gary Jones, RN** and “Nursing Assistant of Excellence” Award winner, **Mary Jo VanSkiver, Nurse Aide**.

Mr. Jones is a nurse on the psychiatric unit and has worked at St. James Mercy since 2006. His nomination included accolades such as, “Gary consistently demonstrates solid critical thinking skills as evidenced by his ability to quickly assess a critical situation and begin addressing the most critical issues. He has a calm, rational approach that patients and families respond well to.”

Ms. VanSkiver is a nurse aide in the operating room and has worked at St. James Mercy since 1976. In Mary Jo’s nomination she was praised for, “her ability to fill in for any job ...and she knows how to do them”. “The patient comes first with Mary Jo; and because of her very good personality, return patients always ask for her first thing.”

The selection process was based on nominations submitted by peers regarding “clinical proficiency, teamwork, service of excellence inpatient care and contributions to St. James and the community.” With over 14 nurses and assistants nominated from the Hospital, nursing home, and clinics, the committee was challenged in choosing between these well-qualified and skilled professionals.

The nursing profession is often described as an art and a science that embraces dedicated people with varied interests, strengths and passions because of the many opportunities the profession offers. Nurses have many roles – from staff nurse to educator to nurse practitioner and nurse researcher – and serve all of them with passion for the profession and with a strong commitment to patient safety. Nursing Assistants play a vital role in patient and resident care by assisting with activities of daily living, bedside and nursing tasks. They also develop relationships with patients, residents and their families and assist with many of their needs.

The 2012 theme for National Nurses Week, which begins each year on May 6 and ends on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, was “*Nurses: Advocating, Leading, Caring*”. St. James Mercy honors all 200 of its nursing staff and thanks them for the spirit of care and service they so readily give.

**On left, 2012 Awardees, “Nurse of Excellence”, Gary Jones and
“Nursing Assistant of Excellence”, Mary Jo VanSkiver**

