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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. James Mercy Hospital Auxiliary Funds New Furniture for Mercycare Break Day Treatment Program

October 21, 2011...Hornell, NY... Thanks to the St. James Mercy Hospital Auxiliary, registrants and staff of the Mercycare Break day treatment program have a more comfortable environment for their daily activities. Through its annual gift to the St. James Mercy Foundation, the Hospital Auxiliary recently funded the purchase of ten tables and forty chairs for the Mercycare Break program at McAuley Manor. Mercycare Break provides registrants with medical and personal care, as well as a stimulating social environment, while offering respite to family members and other caregivers.

According to Jessica Cleveland, social worker at Mercycare, the new furniture is a great improvement. "It has dramatically improved the appearance of the dayroom. The new chairs are far more comfortable and easier to get in and out of, and there is improved socialization and workspace for activities. We are all very appreciative to the Auxiliary for this donation," she said.

"Our Auxiliary members were very excited about funding this project," said Lynne Freeland, Auxiliary president. "They knew it would have an immediate and direct positive impact on the care experience. We are always pleased to be able to support the Hospital and assist in any way to provide quality, accessible healthcare to our community."

In addition to supporting Mercycare Break, a portion of the Hospital Auxiliary's recent gift funded the purchase of a skeleton for the School of Radiologic Science, 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 the single largest financial supporter 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.

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“The money is raised in the Aquinas Gift Shops and from a variety of activities and events.” The next major Auxiliary fundraising event is the Christmas Bazaar, scheduled for November 3 at McAuley Manor and November 4 at the Hospital.

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 www.stjamesmercy.org/auxiliary or call 607.324.8147.



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