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Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare-St. Joseph receives national excellence awards

April 6, 2009 – Milwaukee, WI. Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare – St. Joseph has been selected for two national awards from Thomson Reuters 100 Top Hospitals: The 2008 National Benchmarks Award and the 2008 Everest Award for National Benchmarks.

The National Benchmarks award recognizes hospitals with the highest hospital-wide performance compared with national peers, based on an overall score on Thomson Reuters 100 Top Hospitals national Balanced Scorecard. Winners are selected based on objective statistical performance measurement across five critical areas: clinical process and outcomes, patient safety, patient perceptions of care, operational efficiency, and financial stability.

The Everest Award for National Benchmarks recognizes hospital leaders who have developed and executed strategies that drove the highest rate of improvement, resulting in the highest performance in the country at the end of five years. Only 23 hospitals were selected for the Everest award this year.

"This distinction confirms what a wonderful asset Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare - St. Joseph is to our community, and it's gratifying to be honored with this prestigious group of hospitals," said Debra Standridge, President, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare's North Market, which includes St. Joseph.

"We've always known that St. Joseph delivers extraordinary care and great value to our patients," added John Oliverio, President and Chief Executive Officer of Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare. "This recognition is validation of our unwavering commitment to patient satisfaction, clinical excellence, and operational excellence by our physicians, clinical staff and all those who support them. We are particularly proud of the Everest Award, which points to our success in achieving a high rate of improvement."

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ABOUT WHEATON FRANCISCAN HEALTHCARE in Wisconsin

Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare (WFH) is a Catholic, not-for-profit organization with more than 100 health and shelter organizations in Wisconsin, Iowa, Colorado, and Illinois. Started by the Wheaton Franciscan Sisters more than 125 years ago and formally incorporated in 1983, WFH has corporate services offices in Wheaton, Illinois and Glendale, Wisconsin.

In Southeast Wisconsin, WFH is co-sponsored by the Wheaton Franciscan and Felician Sisters and has nearly 12,000 associates, making it the second largest private employer in the area. Hospitals include All Saints in Racine, St. Joseph and St. Francis in Milwaukee, Elmbrook Memorial in Brookfield, The Wisconsin Heart Hospital in Wauwatosa, and a new site in Franklin. The region also includes Wheaton Franciscan Medical Group with more than 320 physicians in more than 50 locations, a network of outpatient centers, four long-term care facilities, Home Health, and Hospice.

Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare is also affiliated with Affinity Healthcare in the Fox Valley and United Hospital System in Kenosha.