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For Immediate release

## **PROMOTING ITS GO GREEN PROGRAM, ST. VINCENT'S WILL END THE SALE OF THROWAWAY PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES**

Bridgeport, CT, January 4, 2010 – St. Vincent's Medical Center announced today it will no longer sell water in plastic bottles due to its commitment to Go Green.

The hospital had been selling approximately 350,000 bottles of water in plastic bottles each year. To underscore the purity and quality of the water available at the hospital's fountains, taps and bottle-filling stations, St. Vincent's has partnered with the local water utility, Aquarion Water Company, in a "Go With the Flow" program, which will end the sale of bottled water on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

President and CEO of Aquarion Water Company Chuck Firlotte said, "The treatment, testing and quality requirements for tap water are much more stringent than those for the bottled product. Our water's passes 13,000 tests a year."

Hospital officials noted that by ending plastic water bottle sales St. Vincent's would be reducing pollution from the start.

Figures from the Earth Policy Institute show that it takes 17 million barrels of crude oil to manufacture the 29 billion plastic bottles used for water in the U.S. each year. Add in the even greater amount of energy needed for pumping, processing, transporting and refrigerating the product, and the drain on fossil fuels from plastic water bottles exceeds the equivalent of 50 million barrels of oil. That's enough to run three million cars for one year.

According to Kerry Eaton, chief administrative officer, St. Vincent's Medical Center, "Since there's extremely safe, great-tasting water available at the turn of the tap throughout our hospital, we felt the right thing for St. Vincent's to do would be to switch to tap water."

Bottle-free water is the latest addition to the SVMC Go Green Campaign, which began four years ago when St. Vincent's became Connecticut's first hospital to go green with the introduction of Greening the Cleaning solutions used throughout the hospital. Since that time, the Medical Center has also become a smoke-free campus and has built its new Elizabeth Pfriem Swim Center for Cancer Care with green elements.

### **St. Vincent's Medical Center**

St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport, CT is a 473-bed community teaching and referral hospital with a Level II trauma center and a 76-bed inpatient psychiatric facility in Westport. St. Vincent's provides a full range of inpatient and outpatient services with regional centers of excellence in cardiology, surgery, cancer care, orthopedics, diagnostics, women's and family services, behavioral health, senior health and an array of specialized services. St. Vincent's Medical Center is a subsidiary of St. Vincent's Health Services, which include St. Vincent's Behavioral Health Services, Westport Campus, St. Vincent's College, St. Vincent's Special Needs Services, St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation and St. Vincent's Immediate Health Care Centers. It is a member of Ascension Health,

the nation's largest Catholic healthcare system. St. Vincent's is a teaching affiliate of the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and of New York Medical College. The Medical Center is also sponsor of Swim Across the Sound, one of the nation's largest hospital-based cancer prevention and patient support programs. For referral to a St. Vincent's physician or about programs and services, call the toll-free Care Line at 1-877-255-SVHS (7847) or visit [www.stvincents.org](http://www.stvincents.org).

**Aquarion Water Company**

Aquarion Water Company serves nearly 600,000 people in Bridgeport and 35 other communities throughout Connecticut. It is among the seven largest investor-owned water utility companies in the U.S., and the largest in New England.