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**ST. VINCENT'S MEDICAL CENTER AWARDED
\$1 MILLION KRESGE FOUNDATION CHALLENGE GRANT**

April 21, 2009, Bridgeport, CT – St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport is the recipient of a \$1 million challenge grant for its capital campaign: *Building on a Tradition of Trust* from the Michigan-based Kresge Foundation. "We are honored to have been selected by The Kresge Foundation to receive this prestigious grant," said Susan L. Davis, RN, Ed.D., president and CEO of St. Vincent's. "It is truly an institutional grant, which speaks to our vision, strategic planning, commitment to our community and fund-raising capacity."

In order to receive the \$1 million from The Kresge Foundation, St. Vincent's must complete its \$45 million capital campaign by raising an additional \$4 million by September 30, 2010. *Building on a Tradition of Trust* was publicly launched last summer. As the result of a very generous response from the Medical Center's friends and supporters in the community, the original campaign goal was increased from \$42 million to \$45.5 million. To date, more than \$40 million has been pledged to the campaign.

"This grant is a wonderful validation of the fund raising efforts generated by so many dedicated St. Vincent's volunteers, including two outstanding leaders on our Foundation Board, Chuck Mattes and Jim Stapleton, who co-chair the campaign," stated Ronald J. Bianchi, corporate senior vice president of the Medical Center and president of the St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation. "We are so grateful for the generosity of our many friends who have helped us get to this point. We will continue to look to the community to partner with us as we strive to meet the Kresge Challenge. Ultimately, the true beneficiaries will be the people of Bridgeport and beyond who will have access to our enhanced facilities."

Building on a Tradition of Trust is the largest fund-raising effort in St. Vincent's 106-year history and has garnered the largest gifts ever received by the Medical Center. The campaign supports a \$145 million, 500,000-square foot facilities project, the cornerstones of which will be the new four-story, Elizabeth M. Pfriem SWIM Cancer Center, and an expanded Emergency Department. The ED renovation will triple the space and increase its capacity to serve more than 80,000 patients a year. The construction also will include the renovation and reconfiguration of the Medical Center's main floor, which, in turn permits the clustering of cardiovascular and ambulatory surgery services. The new Ambulatory Surgery Center opened last month, and a new, 630-space parking garage opened last September.

"We are very grateful for all of the support to the project by the community, and we are challenged to raise this additional \$4 million to qualify for the \$1 million Kresge grant," added Mr. Bianchi. "We are counting on meeting the requirements of this wonderful challenge opportunity."

Anyone interested in participating in the campaign for this important project should contact St. Vincent's Foundation at 203 576-5451. Special naming and recognition opportunities are also available.

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.