

Media Inquiries: Erin Harrington at (203) 576-6263 or eharrington@stvincents.org

The Rehabilitation Unit at St. Vincent's Medical Center is celebrating their 10th Anniversary. "The Rehabilitation Unit was created 10 years ago to serve the needs of the St. Vincent's Medical Center Community. Its mission was to help patients, their families, and their friends recover from devastating physical illness and functional limitations by promoting functional independence all leading to a better quality of life," said Joel Feigensohn, MD, Medical Director for Rehabilitation at St. Vincent's Medical Center.

In recognition of National Rehabilitation Awareness Week, September 20-26, 2009, the Rehab staff will be involved in some community outreach programs including screenings and spreading the word about rehab at a variety of health fairs and community meetings in September. Look for them at the Boomer's and Beyond Expo on September 24th at the Trumbull Marriott, the Baldwin Center on September 30th and at meetings for AARP in various communities during September and October.

The Rehab Unit at St. Vincent's has had a past Employee of the Year, 2 Nightingale nurses and several past Values Recognition Award recipients (a special honor for associates who have lived out the values of St. Vincent's in a unique way). Several St. Vincent's Rehab therapists teach at local programs and support the future generations through fieldwork affiliations, mentorship and shadowing opportunities and participation at career fairs. On Sunday, September 13th, their Annual Patient Reunion Picnic was held at Booth Park in Stratford, with 120 patients, families and their caregivers convened to celebrate their success through rehab.



Staff of St. Vincent's Medical Center Rehab Unit gathers at their Annual Patient Reunion Picnic held at Booth Park in Stratford on September 13th.

Inpatient, acute rehab, and outpatient programs at St. Vincent's help to ensure people have access to quality rehabilitation services which can enable them to overcome their injury or illness. Statistics show that medical rehabilitation improves lives and saves money. For every \$1 spent on rehab care, it is estimated that \$11 are saved on long-term disability costs. People participating in rehabilitation programs of care are able to regain productivity and return to work, school and independent living. Rehabilitation is a medical specialty which helps restore people affected by potentially disabling disease or traumatic injury to good health and functional, productive lives and also helps minimize physical or cognitive disabilities. Nearly 50 million Americans are disabled.

About 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.

###