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For Immediate Release

Caption:

L to R: St. Vincent's Teen SmokeStoppers instructor Mary Ellen Bolcer; researcher Sharon Milberger, ScD, director for research at the Center for Health Promotion & Disease Prevention at Henry Ford Health System; St. Vincent's Smoke-Free Committee Leader Sandy Reyes; St. Vincent's Corporate Vice President of Human Resources Pamela Tarulli; and researcher Joanne Hafner, RN, MS, associate project director for the Department of Health Services Research of The Joint Commission, following the meeting at St. Vincent's.

Eliminating Smoking A Joint Effort

Researchers for the Joint Commission visited St. Vincent's in September and met with the Smoke-Free committee to learn how the hospital implemented its smoke-free policy. St. Vincent's was selected as one of 100 hospitals out of 1800 to participate in this study on smoke-free initiatives, which the Joint Commission is undertaking in collaboration with the Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at Henry Ford Health System.

In a subsequent letter, Sharon Milberger, ScD., director for research at the Center for Health Promotion & Disease Prevention at Henry Ford Health System and Joanne Hafner, RN, MS, associate project director for the Department of Health Services Research of The Joint Commission praised the enthusiasm and commitment of committee members, and thanked the hospital for helping to expand their knowledge and understanding of the challenges inherent in the policy and the on-going effort to address them.

St. Vincent's Medical Center

In the vanguard of both the go-green and the movement now underway to make all hospitals in the state become smoke-free campuses inside and out by 2010, St. Vincent's Medical Center launched its initiative in 2006. It is the first hospital in the state to successfully go smoke-free on campus. The initiative rests on the belief that secondhand smoke presents a real danger outside as well as inside, and has spurred the successful campaign that protects the health and safety of patients, visitors and employees. Earlier this year St. Vincent's also won the American Lung Association's Breath of Life Award for being a leader among hospitals in adopting smoke-free policies.

St. Vincent's was the first hospital in the state to go green by adopting the Greening the Cleaning standards of the Deirdre Imus Environmental Center for Pediatric Oncology. It is part of St. Vincent's overall effort to improve patient safety and create a healthier environment for its employees and the community through the use of non-toxic

cleaning agents and building materials, and through an enhanced system of recycling products.

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