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Contact: Pete Mobilia

            (Office) 860-714-4511

            (Home) 860-296-7414

            pmobilia@stfranciscare.org

SAINT FRANCIS-MOUNT SINAI 20TH ANNIVERSARY MARKED

Restored Historic Plaque Recalls Mount Sinai's Heritage

(HARTFORD, Conn.) --The 20th anniversary of the historic affiliation between Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center and Mount Sinai Hospital has been marked with the unveiling of a restored 40-inch-by-60-inch, 300-pound cast bronze plaque, that once hung in the lobby of the original Mount Sinai Hospital building on Hartford's Capitol Avenue.

Bearing the names of the leaders of Hartford's Jewish community who founded Mount Sinai in 1922, the plaque recently was discovered in disrepair in a basement crawl space in one of the buildings on the Blue Hills campus that later became Mount Sinai Hospital's home in 1950.

"This is a marvelous restoration of an historic artifact from the time that Mount Sinai was founded with an initial complement of 39 beds in the former Morgan Brainard mansion. It is a vivid reminder of the members of the Jewish community who saw a need for an additional hospital to meet the growing needs of Hartford in the 1920s," said Robert B. Bruner, President of the Mount Sinai Foundation.

The agreement in 1990 between Saint Francis and Mount Sinai to create a new healthcare system serving Metro Hartford was the first recorded instance of collaboration between a Catholic hospital and a Jewish-sponsored hospital. For five years, the two hospitals maintained separate licenses and medical staffs, but shared common management and certain services. In 1995, Saint Francis and Mount Sinai entered into a formal corporate merger, establishing the Saint Francis *Care* system with separate campuses on Woodland Street and Blue Hills Avenue.

"Throughout its history the Mount Sinai name has stood for innovation and progressive care. We are proud to carry on that tradition today through the Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, located within the footprint of the former Mount Sinai Hospital and today Connecticut's only free-standing acute medical rehabilitation facility," said Christopher M. Dadlez, Saint Francis' President and Chief Executive Officer.

"Much has been achieved over the past 20 years through the Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center-Mount Sinai Hospital affiliation and subsequent merger. The legacy of that historic amalgamation will continue in the years ahead as we serve the healthcare needs of our

community with vital services at both campus locations," said Edward S. Johnson, D.D.S., Senior Vice President, North Campus.

Founded in 1897, Saint Francis is a major teaching hospital licensed for 617 acute inpatient beds and 65 bassinets. It is the largest Catholic hospital in New England.