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St. Vincent's SWIM Memorial Service on Sunday, August 2

Bridgeport, CT, July 14, 2009 — St. Vincent's SWIM Across the Sound is hosting the 12th Annual Interfaith Memorial Service on Sunday, August 2nd at 8:30AM at Captain's Cove Seaport in Bridgeport. The service is sponsored by Miriam Raubvogel in memory of her sister Linda Waterman and the Waterman family.

The event is free of charge, open to all and will celebrate the lives of family members and friends lost to cancer. Prayer, musical tributes, inspirational readings and refreshments will be included. The Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree, Connecticut District will form an honor guard for the procession of participants, which will include St. Vincent's therapy dogs and their masters. The event will also feature tenor soloist Robert Talloni of Monroe, "Just Voices" choir and a symbolic candle-lighting ceremony. Highlighting the service will be the reading of the names of the deceased followed by participants scattering sunflowers, the symbol of the memorial service representing glory of life, off a boat into the Long Island Sound. Those attending are welcome to bring a photo no larger than 8x10 inches for posting on the Memorial Wall.

This year, the event will be dedicated in memory of Jan Williams, Co-Director of Captain's Cove Seaport and Co-Chair of the SWIM Across the Sound, who died of cancer this past February. As coordinator of Captain's Cove, Jan Williams, helped to turn a desolate, dirty corner of the city into a beautiful marina, restaurant and thriving commercial complex on the Black Rock waterfront. She was also co-founder of the annual Bluefish Tournament, involving hundreds of fisherman from Connecticut to Long Island Sound. "Jan Williams was a very special person who cared deeply about St. Vincent's and especially the SWIM Across the Sound," said St. Vincent's Senior Corporate Vice President Ronald J. Bianchi. "She co-chaired the St Vincent's SWIM for several years with Dr. Scifo and throughout that time she tirelessly and passionately committed herself to the work of this organization. She cared about all those who suffered with cancer and did all she could to support them through the SWIM." "I had the distinct honor and pleasure of serving as co-chair with Jan Williams these past four years for the SWIM Across the Sound," said Frank Scifo, MD, director of primary care development. "More than a co-chair, she was truly a very special friend. To have known Jan was a life enriching gift. Her smile and warm personality were her trademarks." A life-long resident of Black Rock, she lived there with her husband Rob and was know for her enthusiasm, generosity and drive.

For more information, contact St. Vincent's Foundation at 576-5451.

About St. Vincent's SWIM Across the Sound

St. Vincent's SWIM Across the Sound is a charitable, grass roots organization run by St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation. For 21 years, the SWIM has had a unique niche, providing cancer education, screening and prevention programs at low- or no-cost for the elderly and underserved. In addition, the SWIM helps individual cancer patients on a case-by-case basis with specific needs, such as the funding of wigs and prostheses, medication assistance, free transportation to treatments and appointments, day-care scholarships, support groups and more. The charity raises funds through events such as the SWIM Marathon, Breast Cancer Luncheon, Walk/Run for Cancer and Prostate Cancer Celebrity Dinner. Wherever possible, the SWIM covers costs and expenses of events through corporate sponsorships, and staffing overhead is covered by the St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation. The SWIM's main area of reach is eastern Fairfield County, but outreach programs extend to other areas of Connecticut with the SWIM's Hartford Chapter and annual fund raisers for New Haven County, as well as support for Connecticut's first responders and correction officers with cancer. The SWIM's Teen SmokeStoppers program has reached 120,000 children throughout the entire state to date. The SWIM raised \$2.65 million in the 2008 fiscal year and helps more than 20,000 people annually. For more information, contact the St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation at (203) 576-5451 or visit www.swimacrossthesound.org.

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