



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Nov. 5, 2009

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**SAINT FRANCIS OPENS CENTER FOR INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE**  
*Offers Therapies that Complement Traditional Medical Treatments*

(HARTFORD, Conn.) – Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center has opened the Center for Integrative Medicine, which promotes healing through services that complement traditional medical treatment and promote the body’s own natural healing abilities.

“Our new facility allows us to expand our services to outpatients and the community at large,” said Sharon A. O’Brien, Manager of Integrative Medicine.

Volunteers began providing integrative medicine services to Saint Francis’ inpatients in 2002 in response to requests for relaxation services such as therapeutic massage and energy therapy. Now a section of the Department of Medicine, the Center has five staff members, several independent contractors and 30 credentialed volunteers who currently provide more than 275 treatments monthly to inpatients.

“We recently began offering yoga classes for outpatients participating in Saint Francis’ cardiac rehabilitation program,” notes O’Brien.

Other modalities provided by the Center include: acupuncture, craniosacral therapy, hypnosis, meditation/relaxation techniques and reflexology. The Center's facilities include treatment rooms and space for educational programs. There is also an art gallery with rotating exhibits. Currently, the exhibition *Angels Among Us* is featured.

“Saint Francis has a tradition of treating the whole patient – body, mind and spirit. This Center further extends that healing mission with treatments that augment our traditional therapies,” said Christopher M. Dadlez, the Hospital's President and Chief Executive Officer.

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.

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