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WORK BEGINS ON REBUILDING OF EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AT DAY KIMBALL HOSPITAL

Kick Off Reception Held with Tours of New ED Prototype Room; Day Kimball States That There Will Be No Interruption of Emergency Care During Construction Period

PUTNAM, CONN. – About one year after Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH) commenced an aggressive capital campaign that ultimately raised more than \$3 million, 100 supporters gathered today at Day Kimball Hospital to officially kick-off construction for a new, state-of-the-art emergency department (ED). The project cost is \$10 million.

The new ED will be named the *Townsend Emergency Medical Center*, after Steven and Marjolaine Townsend of Brooklyn, Conn., who made a \$500,000 contribution to the project, which was the largest of some 930 donations received from individuals and businesses throughout Northeast Connecticut and beyond.

“It is very exciting to be here today for the construction kick-off,” said Steven Townsend. “We’re fortunate to be in a position to support this critical project and we are honored that our family’s name will forever be associated with the life-saving work that goes on daily at this great hospital.”

Day Kimball Hospital’s emergency department (ED), constructed in 1970 with renovations done in 1990, was designed to serve 18,000 patients per year. Today, the ED cares for approximately 30,000 people annually, with forecasts indicating that number will continue to grow.

There are two important benefits that will result from the rebuilding of the emergency department: increased space and modernization, including the critical features of 24 all-private treatment rooms including rooms specially designed for behavioral health patients, and one double sized trauma room. A prototype room of the new ED has been constructed so that ED personnel can test the features of the new facility, to better familiarize them with the new facility and make improvement suggestions, if needed. This room was also available for viewing by the construction kick-off event attendees.

“There has been an enormous amount of time spent designing every detail of the new facility,” said Steven Wexler, MD, DKH Medical Director of the ED. “At the same time, maintaining a high standard of quality care during the construction period is just as much of a priority to all of us. I’m confident that there will be no interruption of service throughout the two-year project and that we’ll maintain the level of care our patients have come to expect.”

Robert Smanik, DKH president and CEO concluded, “This effort is part of our strategic plan to offer high-quality, integrated healthcare to all the members of our community. The support that we’ve received for the new ED validates that we’re traveling in the right direction. We pledge that all our decisions will be made in the best interests of our patients.”

Project construction will commence before Thanksgiving of this year and is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2014.

For more details and current progress on the new ED, please visit www.daykimbal.org/care.

Day Kimball Healthcare is a non-profit, integrated medical services network comprised of Day Kimball Hospital, healthcare centers in Danielson, Plainfield, Dayville, Thompson and Putnam, Day Kimball HomeCare, Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern CT, Day Kimball HomeMakers and Day Kimball Physician Practices. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Healthcare's comprehensive network offers more than 1,200 employees including nearly 300 highly-skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its website is www.daykimball.org.