For Immediate Release

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**RED CROSS HONORS TWO SAINT FRANCIS PHYSICIANS AS HEROES**

*(Hartford, Conn. March 14, 2014)* – Michael Bourque, M.D., and Jeffrey Meter, M.D., both physicians at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, were recently honored by the American Red Cross as Heroes for their life-saving contributions while on international medical missions. The *Red Cross Heroes* award salutes men, women and youth from Connecticut whose extraordinary acts of courage and kindness make them local heroes. The Red Cross nominating committee reviewed and voted on more than 35 nominations.

Dr. Meter (left), of Avon, received the *Blood Services Hero Award for a* lifesaving blood donation he made while on a medical mission trip in Kenya, exemplifying the values and mission of the American Red Cross. Dr. Meter is an orthopedic surgeon at Saint Francis.

Dr. Bourque, of Farmington, was honored with the *International Service Award* for establishing a life-saving medical facility in a remote community in Haiti and working to build a sustaining presence there for healthcare. Dr. Bourque is an obstetrician at Saint Francis.

**About Saint Francis *Care***

Saint Francis *Care* is an integrated healthcare delivery system established by Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, an anchor institution in north central Connecticut since 1897. Licensed for 617 beds and 65 bassinets, it is a major teaching hospital and the largest Catholic hospital in New England. Other major entities of Saint Francis *Care* include The Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, the Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute, the Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut, the Saint Francis/Mount Sinai Regional Cancer Center, the Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care and Neuroscience Research, and Saint Francis Health*Care* Partners. Johnson Memorial Medical Center, parent organization of Johnson Memorial Hospital, Evergreen Health Care Center, and Home and Community Health Services is also a Saint Francis *Care* Partner. Saint Francis *Care's* services are supported by a network of five major Access Centers and eight additional medical office centers sited throughout the region. For more information, visit www.stfranciscare.com.