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### **SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO RAISE \$15 MILLION TO TRANSFORM ITS CANCER CENTER**

*The Hope & Healing campaign will increase space and access to oncology services*

(HARTFORD, Conn. – Dec. 2, 2016) Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center today announced a \$15 million Hope & Healing fundraising campaign to expand and transform the Smilow Cancer Hospital Yale-New Haven at Saint Francis to increase the current 45,000-square foot space and improve access to vital oncology services.

This year, over 20,000 Connecticut residents will learn they have cancer. By the year, 2030, cancer is expected to surpass heart disease as the number one cause of death in the United States.

The proposed project includes a \$6 million addition to the Cancer Center, as well as a \$3 million plan to upgrade and renovate existing oncology patient rooms, family areas and nursing facilities.

“Our goal is to bring healing and comfort to our cancer patients and their families and to help them find their smile every day,” said Saint Francis President John F. Rodis, M.D., MB.A. “On the tough days, as well as the days that call for celebrations, our nurses and doctors are there side-by-side with their patients - answering questions, giving support, lending a shoulder to cry on, a quiet prayer before surgery or a “high five” to make a long-awaited milestone - these are the little things that turn doubt to hope and trust.”

More than \$10 million has been raised through donations from generous supporters and the hospital’s annual MIRACLES Gala which raised more than \$1.1 million for the campaign in September.

“Our Investing in our Hope and Healing Campaign will have a profound effect on our patient, their families and our entire community,” said Lynn B. Rossini, vice president and chief development officer, Saint Francis Foundation. “We are so very thankful to our many dedicated supporters who have already committed to making this a highly successful campaign.”

Transformation of the 8<sup>th</sup> floor Inpatient Oncology Pavilion is already underway. During construction, which is expected to be completed in April, cancer patients will be placed on the hospital’s 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Patient Care Tower. This phase of the Hope & Healing project calls for 22 patient rooms to be renovated and upgraded and will reflect the serene and tranquil environment of the hospital’s Karl J. Krapek, Sr., Comprehensive Women’s Health Center which opened in 2014.

“This will become a space of hope and healing for our cancer patients and their families,” said Jonathan Sporn, M.D., section chief, hematology and oncology. “Being able to make our patients feel at home during a difficult diagnosis will help them and their families on their journey to wellness.”

At the same time, the nursing station areas, conference room and a staff respite suite will be

transformed. The planned state-of-the-art space takes into account patients needs as well as those of their families and loved ones. Each private room is designed to feel like home and provide accommodation for visitors.

In addition to renovated space for patients, their families and loved ones will be able to stay in comfortable bedroom suites adjacent to the patient rooms.

A dedicated space for a Comfort and Healing Lounge will also be added to provide a healing sanctuary where programs like art and music therapy, mediation, yoga practice and quiet visiting or a meal can take place. An adjacent Integrative Medicine Suite will offer therapeutic massage, acupuncture, and mind/body therapies to offer relief and comfort for patients and their families and loved ones.

Several Patient Welcome Centers will be created or renovated to provide a calming and peaceful environment for patients awaiting treatment.

“Environment plays an instrumental role in the patient experience. From the moment a patient walks through our doors, they will be surrounded by an environment that has been specifically designed with their health care needs in mind,” said Kathy Noone, R.N., executive director, oncology service line.

Long term plans also call for Saint Francis to expand its oncology treatment programs beyond the hospital grounds. A proposed new infusion center, outfitted with 32 infusion suites to address the increased demand for cancer treatment in our region, is slated for a yet-to-be-determined site east of the Connecticut River.

“We want to make access to modern facilities, state-of-the-art technology and compassionate care as easy as possible for our patients and their families,” said Karl J. Krapek, Sr., honorary chair, Hope & Healing Campaign. “Providing treatment in the community where they live and work will make their path to wellness less burdened.”

### **About Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center**

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center has been an anchor institution in north central Connecticut since 1897. In 2015, Saint Francis became part of Trinity Health - New England, an integrated health care delivery system that is a member of Trinity Health, Livonia, MI, one of the largest multi-institutional Catholic health care delivery systems in the nation. Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center is licensed for 617 beds and 65 bassinets, is a major teaching hospital and the largest Catholic hospital in New England. Other Saint Francis entities include the Comprehensive Women’s Health Center, the Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute, the Curtis D. Robinson Center for Health Equity, the Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut, the Smilow Cancer Hospital Yale-New Haven at Saint Francis, and Saint Francis Medical Group.