

For Immediate Release

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**SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER  
RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY FOR PROMOTING ORGAN,  
EYE, AND TISSUE DONATION**  
*Achieves Platinum Status*

(HARTFORD, Conn. – July 14, 2016) Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, a Trinity Health - New England provider, was among a select group of hospitals nationwide recognized for promoting enrollment in state organ donor registries in a national campaign sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The campaign has added 400,000 donor enrollments to state registries nationwide since 2011.

Saint Francis conducted awareness and registry campaigns to educate staff, patients, visitors, and community members about the critical need for organ, eye, and tissue donors and, by doing so, increased the number of potential donors on the state's donor registry. The hospital earned points for each activity implemented between May 2015 and April 2016 and was awarded Platinum recognition through the HRSA Workplace Partnership for Life Hospital Campaign.

Of the 995 hospitals and transplant centers participating in the campaign, 281 were awarded platinum recognition during this phase of the campaign.

“Organ donation is an incredibly generous and

priceless gift,” said John F. Rodis, M.D., M.B.A., president, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. “One organ and tissue donor can save up to eight lives and enhance up to 50 more. We can make a difference in the lives of thousands of adults and children who are waiting on a transplant list. We can give them a second chance to walk, run and live life to the fullest.”

This campaign is a special effort of HRSA’s Workplace Partnership for Life to mobilize the nation’s hospitals to increase the number of people in the country who are registered organ, eye, and tissue donors and ultimately, the number of organs available for transplant. The campaign unites donation advocates at hospitals with representatives from their local organ procurement organizations, Donate Life America affiliates, and state and regional hospital associations. Working together, the teams leverage their communications resources and outreach efforts to most effectively spread word of the critical need for donors.

“Saint Francis is to be commended for its outstanding contributions to raising donation awareness and for its support of our donors, donor families and recipients,” said In-House Donation Coordinator Wendy Fitt. “From the monthly flag raisings to honor donors and their families to inviting staff to register as a donor, every effort makes a difference to many lives.”

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center is one of four separately licensed hospitals that comprise Trinity Health - New England. Trinity Health - New England’s Regional Health Ministry also includes Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital in Hartford, Johnson Memorial Medical Center in Stafford Springs, and Sisters of Providence Health System, which includes Mercy Medical Center, in Springfield, Massachusetts.

## **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 Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut, Smilow Cancer Hospital Yale-New Haven at Saint Francis, and Saint Francis Medical Group. For more information, visit [www.stfranciscare.com](http://www.stfranciscare.com).