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For Immediate Release

First Physician Elected St. Vincent's Chairman of the Board

BRIDGEPORT, CT, August 12, 2013 – Daniel S. Gottschall, MD, has been elected chairman of the Board of Directors for St. Vincent's Health Services. Dr. Gottschall will succeed Ruben Rodriguez who has served as chairman since 2009.

"I consider this an enormous honor," said Dr. Gottschall. "I'm proud to be part of this high quality health system. St. Vincent's has a special dedication and commitment to its mission and meeting the needs of greater Bridgeport. There's a spiritual aspect here that wraps patients and their families in a blanket of safety, caring for their wellbeing – mind, body and spirit. As physician and board chair, I can assure you that St. Vincent's will continue to be a beacon of vision and hope for our community."

The election of Dr. Gottschall represents the first time a physician has taken the helm, a seat that had traditionally been affiliated with religious sisters for more than a century. Outgoing chair Ruben Rodriguez was the first lay chairman of the board of trustees, and introduced a keen sense of leadership and business expertise to the board along with a unique passion to the mission. "I think the Lord puts us here and every one of us has a mission to carry out," said Rodriguez. "The St. Vincent's mission is one I believe deeply in. I was humbled to take on the responsibility of board chair at St. Vincent's four years ago and was proud to serve. Dr. Gottschall's election takes the seat to a new, important level," he added. "His experience, dedication and modern medical insight will not only keep the mission in sight but will help St. Vincent's better serve the community in these challenging times."

Dr. Gottschall received his medical degree from Hahnemann University School of Medicine in Philadelphia and completed his internship and residency at the University of Connecticut. Board certified in obstetrics and gynecology, Dr. Gottschall joined the staff of St. Vincent's Medical Center in 1997 after serving as chief resident and clinical instructor at the University of Connecticut Health Center Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

In addition to serving as vice chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at St. Vincent's, Dr. Gottschall has served in numerous hospital capacities at the Medical Center, including vice chair of the board of trustees, past president of the medical staff and medical director of the Seton Center for Women's Health. A fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Medical Association, Dr. Gottschall is also a board member of Women's Health Connecticut. In his private practice, he is a member of Alliance for Women's Health in Bridgeport, a division of Women's Health Connecticut. A Trumbull resident, Dr. Gottschall is married with four children.

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St. Vincent's Health Services (SVHS) is a member of Ascension Health, the nation's largest Catholic and largest non-profit healthcare system. SVHS offers regional centers of excellence in cardiology, surgery, cancer care, orthopedics, diagnostics, women's and family services, behavioral health, senior health and an array of specialized services. SVHS comprises **St. Vincent's Medical Center**, a 473-bed community teaching and referral hospital with a Level II trauma center, providing a full range of inpatient and outpatient services with more than 500 affiliated physicians in more than 50 medical and surgical specialties and subspecialties; **St. Vincent's College**, which provides an education in nursing, allied health and the liberal arts and sciences; **St. Vincent's Special Needs Services (SVSN)**, a major provider in Southern Connecticut of specialized lifelong education and therapeutic programs for children and adults with multiple developmental disabilities, and **St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation**, which sponsors St. Vincent's SWIM Across the Sound, offering cancer prevention and patient support programs for un- and under-insured area residents. **St. Vincent's Medical Center** has received the "A" Hospital Safety Score from the Leapfrog Group two years in a row, and is one of only two hospitals in the state to receive both the Leapfrog "A" and Nursing Magnet® recognition for nursing excellence. U.S. News & World Report named St. Vincent's Best Hospital in Fairfield County and all of Western Connecticut for 2013-14 and high performing in six specialties: Gastroenterology and GI Surgery; Geriatrics; Gynecology; Neurology and Neurosurgery; Pulmonology and Urology. St. Vincent's serves as the principal clinical partner for the new Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University. St. Vincent's is also a teaching affiliate of the University Of Connecticut School Of Medicine and of New York Medical College. **St. Vincent's MultiSpecialty Group**, an affiliate of St. Vincent's Medical Center, is a clinically integrated network of primary care and specialty care providers in the community and in the hospital. Serving southwestern Connecticut, **St. Vincent's Health Partners (SVHP)**, a physician hospital organization, provides a strategy to improve patient care most efficiently through active coordination of care and data sharing. For referral to a St. Vincent's physician or more information on programs and services, call the toll-free Care Line at 1-877-255-SVHS (7847) or visit www.stvincents.org