



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Holy Family Hospital and the Merrimack Valley YMCA Launch Official Community Health Partnership

Free screenings, lectures, and events coming to local YMCA branches

September 29, 2009 - Methuen, Mass. – Holy Family Hospital and the Merrimack Valley YMCA today announced a partnership which will offer a variety of free community health education, events, and screenings at local Merrimack Valley YMCA branches.

The year-long *Community Health Partner Series* will begin in October 2009 and run monthly at the Lawrence, Methuen and Andover/North Andover YMCA branches. Topics will include skin, lung, and breast cancer; diabetes; heart disease; and bone and joint health, among others.

“By joining forces, we will better meet the health needs of our community by providing improved access and convenience to the YMCA membership,” said hospital President and CEO Lester P. Schindel. “The synergy of our missions – to promote health and wellness – makes this partnership such a natural fit. Collectively, we will move the health of our communities forward.”

“We are proud to partner with Holy Family Hospital in this effort. Together, we believe we can have an even greater impact,” said Stephen C. Ives, President & CEO of the Merrimack Valley YMCA. “We are excited about this opportunity to work together in strengthening the communities we both serve.”

The first Community Health Partnership event will promote **breast cancer awareness**, including education on self breast exams, at the YMCA Andover/North Andover branch October 15 from 3-7 p.m.

Other upcoming events include:

- **A foot pronation analysis** will be provided during registration for the Feaster Five Race at the YMCA Andover/North Andover branch on November 23-25. Complimentary first aid kits also provided to all registrants.

- A **free diabetes screening and educational session** will be held on Tuesday, December 8 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Methuen YMCA branch, located at 129 Haverhill Street.

Later this year, a complete schedule of the Community Health Partnership series activities will be available at participating YMCA locations, or on the Holy Family Hospital website, www.CaritasHolyFamily.org.

About Holy Family Hospital

Holy Family Hospital is a 271-bed, not-for-profit Catholic hospital serving some 450,000 people in 20 communities throughout the Merrimack Valley and southern New Hampshire, including Methuen, Lawrence, Andover, North Andover, Haverhill and Salem, NH. Holy Family is fully accredited and has proudly received the Gold Seal of Approval from the Joint Commission, the world leader in evaluating the quality and safety of patient care.

About the Merrimack Valley YMCA

The Merrimack Valley YMCA is a multi-faceted not-for-profit social service organization providing health and wellness programs and services to preschoolers through senior citizens. The Merrimack Valley YMCA is comprised of three facility branches: the Lawrence Branch on Lawrence Street in Lawrence founded in 1880; the Andover/North Andover Branch on Haverhill Street in Andover built in 1975 and the Methuen Branch opened in 2003.

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