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## **Mount Carmel, Fairfield Medical Center to Develop Area's First Full-Service Emergency Center in Northern Fairfield County**

**--- Design also includes imaging services, laboratory, pharmacy, and medical offices ---**

(Columbus and Lancaster - *December 18, 2007*) --- Fairfield Medical Center and Mount Carmel Health System are collaborating to develop an innovative full-service emergency care center at the U.S. Route 33 and the Hill-Diley Road interchange in northern Fairfield County. Components of the campus include a state-of-the-art imaging center (complete with MRI, CT scan, x-ray, and ultrasound), a clinical laboratory, pharmacy, and medical office building. Construction on the \$35 million, 70,000 square-foot complex will start this spring with completion scheduled for fall 2009.

"We're excited that our collaboration with Fairfield Medical Center is moving forward to meet the need for local services in northern Fairfield County," said Claus von Zychlin, president and chief executive officer of Mount Carmel Health System. "As the two leading health systems serving the residents of Fairfield County, Mount Carmel and Fairfield Medical Center look forward to bringing additional health care services closer to home."

"During our feasibility study, the community said loud and clear that the greatest need is ready access to emergency services," said Mina Ubbing, president and chief executive officer of Fairfield Medical Center. "With the increased traffic congestion, it takes precious time to get to either Fairfield Medical Center or Mount Carmel. This center will meet the need today. As the population continues to grow, additional phases of the campus will develop with the community."

The 24-hour emergency center will feature access to ground and air transport and will be staffed by emergency medicine physicians, emergency-trained nurses, ER technicians, and support associates. The emergency care center expects to treat 10,000 patients in the first year and nearly 16,000 by its fifth year of operation.

The project architect is Design Group, with Elford, Inc. providing construction management services. The Daimler Group will develop the medical office building for specialty and primary care physicians.

A first step toward additional support for the health care campus came last night as the Canal Winchester Village Council approved a 30-year tax increment financing (TIF) district. While details are still to be determined, part of the TIF proceeds will assist in the development of necessary infrastructure intended to benefit the entire community and make the development possible.

“The village is committed to working collaboratively with Mount Carmel and Fairfield Medical Center on this project to provide accessible, quality health care for the good of the community,” said Jeffery J. Miller, mayor of Canal Winchester.

“Having a medical facility in our community will greatly improve the quality of life for our residents as well as bring economic benefit to the area through taxes and health care jobs,” said Chris Strayer, development director for the Village of Canal Winchester.

The potential also exists for the Violet Township Fire Department to locate a new station in the vicinity, or perhaps on the health care campus itself. Township officials are currently evaluating their options for how best to serve this growing community.

“Regardless of where a future station is ultimately located in the area, we are looking forward to the development of the emergency center,” said Chief Kenn Taylor. “Its location and services will offer us and neighboring EMS (Emergency Management Services) providers a closer alternative to safely transport patients for emergency care and position us back in service more quickly than if we had to travel to Columbus or Lancaster.”

Subsequent phases for the health care campus could begin in as early as three years and may include phased development of an outpatient surgery center, increased medical office space, and an inpatient hospital. “Plans for future development on the campus will be driven by the pace at which the patient and physician community embrace this center as their preferred home for health care services,” von Zychlin concluded.

## **ABOUT MOUNT CARMEL**

*Founded in 1886, Mount Carmel Health System (Columbus, Ohio) offers a broad range of health care services in the Central Ohio region and has approximately 1 million patient visits annually. MCHS includes four hospitals with a combined 1,267 beds; numerous outpatient services; home care; palliative and hospice care; an ambulance and mobile intensive care unit service; a community outreach program for the poor and underserved; a college of nursing; and a Medicare health plan. MCHS has approximately 8,000 associates; a medical staff of approximately 1,500 physicians; and more than 1,000 volunteers. MCHS has received national recognition for its quality of care, and is a past recipient of the Catholic Health Association's highest award – the "Achievement Citation." As a Mission-driven organization, Mount Carmel provided more than \$59.8 million in total uncompensated community benefits in FY 07. Mount Carmel is a member of Trinity Health (Novi, Mich.), the fourth-largest Catholic health care system in the United States.*

## **ABOUT FAIRFIELD MEDICAL CENTER**

*Fairfield Medical Center located in Lancaster, Ohio, was established in 1916 and has continued to grow since then to become the modern, not-for-profit health care system it is today. Fairfield Medical Center is a 222-bed general acute care facility dedicated to being the major referral center that serves the health care needs of the southeastern and central Ohio region. The Center is represented by more than 2000 employees, over 600 volunteers and Twig members and a growing team of over 250 physicians who all work together to ensure Fairfield Medical Center's continuing success in meeting the health care needs of our residents. To enhance upon its delivery of health care to the various communities it serves, Fairfield Medical Center has established affiliates and off-campus locations to allow for greater accessibility and enhanced services.*

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