

Lake Area United Way

The Colby Building
221 W. Ridge Road
Griffith, IN 46319-1097
Phone: (219) 923-2302
Fax: (219) 923-8601
www.lauw.org



Contact: Robert K. Scott, Jr.
Vice President, Marketing &
Communications
(219) 923-2302, Ext. 307

**FOR IMMEDIATE
PUBLICATION**
July 6, 2010
bscott@lauw.org

St. Mary Medical Center Named 'Hospital of the Year' by Lake Area United Way

Employees gave most contributions of any area hospital in 2009-10 campaign

(Griffith, Indiana) – St. Mary Medical Center was named “Hospital of the Year” by the Lake Area United Way for its exemplary employee contributions given by its administrative, nursing, medical and support staff in the 2009-10 community campaign.

Lake Area United Way recognized St. Mary Medical Center’s staff and administration for leading all area hospitals in total employee giving, achieving the highest average employee gift and the best overall employee participation level in the campaign.

The award was presented to hospital CEO Janice Ryba and Tony Ferracane, Vice President of Human Resources for Community Healthcare System which oversees Community Hospital in Munster, St. Catherine Hospital in East Chicago and St. Mary Medical Center, located in Hobart.

“United Way is pleased to honor St. Mary Medical Center’s employees for being ‘best in class’ in the hospital category,” said Dan Lowery, Vice President of Academic Affairs for Calumet College of St. Joseph and President of Lake Area United Way’s Board of Trustees.

In the 2009-10 campaign, St. Mary’s employees contributed \$23,662 which represents a 11.3% increase in dollars compared to the prior campaign. Employee participation jumped nearly 21% compared to 2008. Over the last 4 United Way campaigns, employee giving at St. Mary Medical Center has increased 90%. On top of this, the Community Foundation and the hospital’s medical staff gave very generous gifts.

“With so many excellent and giving hospitals in our community, being named ‘Hospital of the Year’ is quite an accomplishment. The employees of St. Mary Medical Center are very deserving of this honor,” said Lowery. “You exemplify the hospital’s mission and values”

“We share with the United Way a strong commitment to supporting our communities,” said Janice Ryba, CEO. “There is a culture of caring at St. Mary Medical Center that is deep and

genuine among our employees, medical staff and volunteers. It is an honor to be recognized for their efforts.”

In presenting the special award, SMMC’s Director of Human Resources Yvonne Hoff and HR Specialist Ellen Page were recognized for their outstanding service as the employee campaign managers in charge of planning and conducting the United Way drive at SMMC.

“Yvonne and Ellen have worked hard to educate and motivate their co-workers and colleagues on how their gifts to United Way are re-invested back into the community, who is helped and ways to get involved,” explained Lowery.

This year’s award was bestowed during a team meeting at St. Mary’s on Tuesday, June 29 attended by all department leaders. To help celebrate this achievement, all hospital employees will enjoy slices of cheese cake delivered to their respective departments and get a chance to see and touch the United Way award trophy.

Lake Area United Way created the “Hospital of the Year” Award in 2008, presenting the first award to Community Hospital’s employees. The traveling glass trophy is presented to the local institution with the highest employee giving overall, best average gift and highest employee participation rate.

###

PHOTO CAPTION:

(Left to right) St. Mary Medical Center was recently recognized with Lake Area United Way’s “Hospital of the Year” Award. Accepting the special award is: Ellen Page, HR Specialist; Yvonne Hoff, Director of Human Resources; Dan Lowery, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Calumet College of St. Joseph and President of Lake Area United Way’s Board of Trustees; and Janice Ryba, Chief Executive Officer of St. Mary Medical Center.