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St. Joseph Hospital Receives National Honor

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Bestows ‘Medal of Honor’

Seattle, Wash. — (March 2, 2010) PeaceHealth St. Joseph Hospital of Bellingham has received the prestigious Medal of Honor from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The medal is awarded to a small number of hospitals nationwide that achieve and sustain national goals for organ donation within the community. This is the second consecutive year that St. Joseph Hospital has received this honor.

“St. Joseph Hospital has produced outstanding results towards saving lives, and Northwest Washington is lucky to have such a facility,” says Kevin O’Connor, CEO of LifeCenter Northwest.

O’Connor presented the award to Nancy Steiger, CEO and Chief Mission Officer for PeaceHealth St. Joseph Hospital, along with the governing board of directors and the hospital’s administrative team, earlier this year. Receiving this award, Steiger expressed appreciation for the selflessness of those who have given the gift of life through their organ donation.

Together, O’Connor and Steiger encourage others to register as organ, eye, and tissue donors during April – Donate Life Month – noting that over 100,000 patients are on the national transplant waiting list, including 1,600 in the Pacific Northwest. For more information or to register, visit www.DonateLifeToday.com.

HHS’ Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) leads federal efforts to increase organ and tissue donation. LifeCenter Northwest is one of the 58 federally designated non-profit organ procurement organizations (OPO) in the United State and manages the Washington Donate Life Today Registry. St Joseph Hospital has provided health care in the Bellingham area since 1891.

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