



For Immediate Release

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Butler Health System and Lutheran SeniorLife Join Forces to Create Innovative Senior Care Center in Butler

Butler, PA - (October 27, 2006) - One of Butler County's largest healthcare providers and one of the fastest growing senior living organizations in the region have joined together to offer frail and low-income seniors innovative services in a centrally located center.

LIFE-Butler County will be a partnership between Butler Health System and Lutheran SeniorLife. It is a program modeled to go beyond the traditional boundaries of providing senior care.

Income eligible residents that require nursing home services will now have the opportunity to stay at home and receive these same services.

Instead of living in a nursing home, residents will be transported to a care center where they receive social, rehabilitation and medical services and are transported home at the end of the day.

Lutheran SeniorLife currently offers LIFE programs in Pittsburgh through a partnership with Mercy Health System and in Beaver County under its LIFE-Beaver County program.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for Butler Health System to demonstrate again our attempt to innovate and lead in the healthcare of our community," said Joseph Stewart, President & CEO of Butler Health System. "This is such an opportunity because we are able to partner with Lutheran SeniorLife – who are experts in caring for the aged. This project should serve as one of our best examples of how we see "the care of the future,"" Stewart said.

David Fenoglietto, President & CEO of Lutheran SeniorLife, said the program is consistent with mission of Lutheran SeniorLife, a social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

"There clearly is a need for these services in Butler County and we wanted to respond, as we have in other areas, by working with partners so we can maximize existing services. Butler Health System was a wonderful match for this effort," Fenoglietto said.

A location has yet to be identified. Both organizations plan to have the program operational by the spring of 2007 somewhere in or near the city of Butler.

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Under the LIFE model, residents from throughout the county will receive services that are all inclusive at no cost to the resident or families, as long as they qualify under state income and clinical guidelines.

The treatment program can be daily or for several days a week, depending on the resident's needs. Those are identified in conjunction with the resident and family members and/or caregivers.

The LIFE program offers residents a choice by enabling them to receive the same services traditionally delivered in a facility but now are available in their homes for as long as possible so that they can age in the home and community that they have grown to love, Fenoglietto said.

Lutheran SeniorLife has corporate offices in Cranberry and long-term care facilities in Mars (St. John Specialty Care Center); Zelienople (Passavant Retirement Community) as well as independent living apartment and carriage homes in Butler and Greensburg (Crown Pointe).

For more information contact Mark O'Donnell, Director of System Development & Communications for Lutheran SeniorLife, at 724-742-2249.

- www.butlerhealthsystem.org -