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Officials Break Ground for Emergency Center in Canal Winchester

(Columbus and Lancaster – *October 1, 2008*) --- Leaders of Mount Carmel Health System and Fairfield Medical Center joined members of the local community yesterday for the ceremonial groundbreaking of central Ohio's first 24-hour, full-service emergency center. Claus von Zychlin and Mina Ubbing were accompanied by Canal Winchester Mayor Mike Ebert, Violet Township Trustee Gary Weltlich, and Violet Township Fire Chief Kenn Taylor. Bishop Frederick F. Campbell of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus conducted the groundblessing co-officiated by Reverend James Ross, Fairfield Medical Center chaplain.

The campus is located at the U.S. Route 33 and the Hill-Diley Road interchange in northern Fairfield County. Construction on the 34,000 square-foot facility will begin October 2, with completion scheduled for late fall 2009.

Claus von Zychlin, Mount Carmel president and chief executive officer, said the campus is designed to grow along with the community it serves. "Patients requiring immediate medical attention are finding it increasingly difficult to access timely care, and this center will meet the most immediate community need," von Zychlin said. "This center is not only a welcome collaboration with Fairfield Medical Center, but also with the Village of Canal Winchester, Violet Township, and all Fairfield County residents who have worked along with us to improve the health of our community."

"This occasion has been a long time in the making," said Mina Ubbing, Fairfield Medical Center president and chief executive officer. "Were honored to be a part of the growth of Canal Winchester and northern Fairfield County and look forward to serving this area for years to come."

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The yet-unnamed emergency center will have access to ground and air transport services and be staffed by emergency medicine physicians, emergency-trained nurses, ER technicians, and support associates. The facility will also offer imaging services such as MRI, CT scan, x-ray, ultrasound, and mammography, as well as a clinical pharmacy and laboratory.

Violet Township Fire Chief Kenn Taylor said, "We are overjoyed to see this center come to our community. It allows EMS to provide emergency services in a more effective manner and keeps us nearby so that we can respond more quickly to the next call."

The campus will also feature a 50,000 square-foot medical office building for specialty and primary-care physicians, developed by The Daimler Group. The project architect is Design Group, with Elford, Inc, providing construction management services. The total project budget is \$35M.

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About Mount Carmel Health System

Founded in 1886, Mount Carmel Health System (MCHS) offers a broad range of healthcare services in the Central Ohio region and has approximately 1 million patient visits annually. MCHS includes four hospitals – Mount Carmel East, Mount Carmel West, Mount Carmel St. Ann's, and Mount Carmel New Albany; 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 under-served; a college of nursing; and a Medicare Advantage health plan. MCHS has approximately 9,000 associates; medical staffs 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, MCHS provided \$59.9 million in total uncompensated community benefits in FY 07, serving more than 200,000 individuals. MCHS is a member of Trinity Health, the fourth-largest Catholic healthcare system in the United States. For more information, visit www.mountcarmelhealth.com

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 healthcare 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 healthcare needs of 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 healthcare needs of our residents. To enhance upon its delivery of healthcare to the various communities it serves, Fairfield Medical Center has established affiliates and off-campus locations to allow for greater accessibility and enhanced services.