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NEWS RELEASE

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FAIRFIELD MEDICAL CENTER CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

LANCASTER, Ohio (June 12, 2008) – Can you put a price on the steady arm that guides a heart patient through those first few steps after life-saving surgery? What about a smile to encourage a nervous new mother learning to nurse her hungry newborn? Or the joy that one feels after hearing that a loved one is going to be just fine after a devastating car accident? What if hospitals did not exist, where would you go if you needed urgent medical care?

The many compelling contributions of hospitals are not confined within their walls but are extended far into the communities they serve. Hospitals are caring for their communities today and reaching out to create a healthier population for tomorrow.

Fairfield Medical Center was one of the 174 community hospitals that participated in the Ohio Hospital Association's (OHA) 2008 statewide community benefit report, *Caring Today for a Healthy Tomorrow*, which shares Ohio hospitals' \$1.8 billion story of compassionate caring. Fairfield Medical Center's total community benefit is \$9,923,634, which includes *charity, community activities and betterment projects, and providing necessary healthcare services to the community, even though they are not profitable.*

Fairfield Medical Center's total economic impact is \$84,882,777 and Fairfield Medical Center creates 2,068 jobs in our community, making it the largest employer in Fairfield County.

For 2006, Fairfield Medical Center's loss for Charity Care was \$814,458 and Hospital Care Assurance Program (HCAP), net \$2,666,186. Bad Debt is comprised of the amount Fairfield Medical Center must absorb because the patient does not pay. Bad Debt totaled \$4,047,379 for 2006. Community Activity Expenses are the costs Fairfield Medical Center incurs for educational programs, other activities that benefit the community and department costs for those areas of expertise needed by the community, but which do not generate a profit. Community Activity also includes sponsorship of various community betterment projects, such as the Lancaster Festival and Fairfield County Fair, Fairfield Medical personnel staff first aid booths along with many other activities. Community Activity Benefits totaled

\$6,442,990 for 2006.

Numbers make up only a piece of the total community benefit picture. The rest is represented through the stories of how caregivers go beyond expectations both inside and outside the hospital's walls.

One example of such dedication is represented through the Child Advocacy Center. Thanks to the dedication of many Fairfield County agencies along with Fairfield Medical Center, children now have a place to turn to when they are abused and neglected in Fairfield County. The Fairfield County Child Advocacy Center opened in the fall of 2007 and began taking cases in January 2008. The concept is to have one central location for children who are victims of abuse to go to for treatment and guidance.

Lisa DeGeeter, Executive Director, noticed that the previous system required the patient to see a prosecutor, counselor, have a medical exam if determined, and the list goes on. This new Child Advocacy Center allows those resources to come to one place for the child and his/her family. This eliminates stress on both ends of the spectrum. The Abuse Prevention Fund and Fairfield Medical Center have covered the first two years of rent for this facility. "This is a great benefit to our community and Fairfield Medical Center was happy to be a part of it. The impact it has on our community is priceless," commented Mina Ubbing, Fairfield Medical Center President and CEO.

Community benefits are one of the most powerful indicators of Ohio hospitals' many contributions to help strengthen their communities. The report, released June 10, showcases Ohio hospitals and the many ways they contribute to their communities.

The statewide report, *Caring Today for a Healthy Tomorrow*, is available online at www.ohanet.org/benefit/.

The Ohio Hospital Association was established in 1915 and currently represents 174 hospitals and 40 health systems throughout Ohio. OHA is a membership-driven organization that provides proactive leadership to create an environment in which Ohio hospitals are successful in serving their communities. Visit OHA's Web site at www.ohanet.org. For information on top health care issues, visit the online OHA News Media Center at www.ohanet.org/media/.

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