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NEWS RELEASE

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(For immediate release)

FAIRFIELD MEDICAL CENTER CANCER PROGRAM GRANTED A THREE-YEAR ACCREDITATION WITH COMMENDATION FROM THE COMMISSION ON CANCER

LANCASTER, Ohio (August 24, 2009) – The Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons (ACoS) has granted a **Three-Year Accreditation with Commendation** to the Cancer Program at Fairfield Medical Center.

Fairfield Medical Center received this Three-Year Accreditation with Commendation following an on-site evaluation by a physician surveyor during which the program demonstrated a commendation level of compliance with one or more standards that represent the full scope of the cancer program (cancer committee leadership, cancer data management, clinical services, research, community outreach, and quality improvement).

The Accreditation Program, a component of the CoC, sets quality-of-care standards for cancer programs and reviews the programs to ensure they conform to those standards. Accreditation by the CoC is given only to those facilities that have voluntarily committed to providing the highest level of quality cancer care and that undergo a rigorous evaluation process and review their performance. To maintain accreditation, facilities with CoC-accredited cancer programs must undergo an on-site review every three years. Mina Ubbing, President and CEO at Fairfield Medical Center, is very proud of Center employees and physicians for making this accreditation possible. "This accreditation shows our commitment to cancer patients in our area to provide high quality cancer care close to home. I can't say enough about how dedicated our cancer services team is at the Center, their hard work really makes a difference and it shows."

When patients receive care at Fairfield Medical Center, as a CoC-accredited cancer program, patients will be ensured access to:

- Comprehensive care, including a range of state-of-the-art services and equipment

- ❑ A multispecialty, team approach to coordinate the best treatment options
- ❑ Access to cancer-related information, education, and support
- ❑ A cancer registry that collects data on type and stage of cancers and treatment results and offers lifelong patient follow-up
- ❑ Ongoing monitoring and improvement of care
- ❑ Most importantly, QUALITY CARE CLOSE TO HOME

"This was my first audit with the CoC. Their standards are incredibly high, and earning this accreditation confirmed what I already knew about the cancer care here at FMC; that it is truly excellent," commented Kellie Butler, Oncology Nurse Navigator at Fairfield Medical Center.

The core functions of the CoC include setting standards for quality, multidisciplinary cancer patient care; surveying facilities to evaluate compliance with the 36 CoC standards; collecting standardized and quality data from accredited facilities; and using the data to develop effective educational interventions to improve cancer care outcomes at the national, state, and local level.

Through an exclusive partnership with the American Cancer Society, the CoC provides the public with information on the resources, services, and cancer treatment experience for each CoC-accredited cancer program. Visit www.cancer.org or call 1-800-ACS-2345 for more information on the CoC-accredited cancer program. Call Kellie Butler, Oncology Nurse Navigator at (740) 687-8863 if you have any questions regarding Cancer Care Services at Fairfield Medical Center.

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