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NEWS RELEASE

(For immediate release)

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FAIRFIELD MEDICAL CENTER OFFERS “THE GROW OUR OWN” PROGRAM

LANCASTER, Ohio (July 29, 2008) – Fairfield Medical Center, in conjunction with Ohio University, now offers a new program for Fairfield Medical Center Nurses to advance their careers by enrolling in a new master’s degree program. As the first healthcare facility in Southeast Ohio to offer such a program, Fairfield Medical Center puts a strong focus on improving healthcare delivery by increasing the number of Nurse Practitioners on campus. Currently Fairfield Medical Center has five Nurse Practitioners and is looking to add more.

“It’s really all about patient satisfaction and providing career ladder opportunities for Nurses. It all goes together and I am proud to say we have these types of opportunities for our Nursing staff. We want to see our Nurses excel and reach new heights. More and more Nurse Practitioners are needed at FMC, especially in areas such as acute care and family practice.” said Cynthia Pearsall, Fairfield Medical Center Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer.

The Grow Our Own program allows Nurses to earn a master’s degree while continuing to work their normal work week, which in turn improves the quality of healthcare in our community. As Kathleen Rose-Grippa, Interim Director of the Ohio University School of Nursing commented, “Ninety percent of the students in the School of Nursing are local and plan to stay in Southeastern Ohio. With the program available in their place of work, more nurses will be able to seek an advanced degree that in turn improves healthcare in our traditionally underserved area.” Rose-Grippa also said that this

program would be funded by a three-year \$787,841 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration. This grant will help with devising a new curriculum and hiring personnel. Classes are scheduled to begin in the fall. For more information about programs offered for employees at Fairfield Medical Center, please call Human Resources at (740) 687-8017. The Ohio University's School of Nursing offers associates, bachelors and masters degree programs at the University's regional campuses throughout Southeastern Ohio. For more information about these programs please visit Ohio University at www.ohio.edu or contact the Lancaster Campus Student Services at 888.44.OHIU, ext. 215.

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