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**RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES® OF CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
GRANTS \$15,716 TO SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER**

Funding Provides Pediatric Equipment for Community Clinics

HARTFORD, CONN./ OCT. 6, 2011 – Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts has provided Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center with a \$15,716 grant to fund specialty pediatric medical equipment for two of the hospital's community clinics. Today RMHC Board Member Edward Abraham joined Dr. Fred Bogin, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center's Chief of Pediatric Services, at the Gengras Pediatric Clinic on Asylum Avenue in Hartford to observe a demonstration of the new equipment. Additional medical staff, hospital personnel, parents and children, as well Ronald McDonald himself were also in attendance. A giant check was presented to symbolize the grant funding and mark the occasion.

The new equipment will help with pediatric patient care at two of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center's community clinics – the Gengras Clinic, located in Hartford's Asylum Hill neighborhood, and the Burgdorf Clinic, located in the Blue Hills neighborhood of Hartford. The clinics served nearly 20,000 children last year, virtually all of whom came from families living below the federally established poverty level. The clinics provide a patient-centered medical home to these children and their parents/guardians. Every child has a personal pediatrician who becomes thoroughly involved with all aspects of their physical, emotional, and behavioral health. The physicians work closely with parents/guardians to ensure their children have everything they need to lead healthy lifestyles, and all physical and behavioral health issues are addressed on an immediate and ongoing basis.

The generous grant from RMHC has allowed the clinics to add high quality, up-to-date medical examination equipment, providing medical staff with the same equipment found in private practice pediatricians' offices. This equipment is considered necessary for best practice and creates more efficiency in the pediatric clinic waiting rooms, saving patients and families time during each appointment. The speed, comfort, and accuracy of this new equipment also helps establish trust between the young patients and their doctors; many children are nervous and afraid of treatment or exams that are being performed in a pediatrician's office, but this new equipment allows the medical staff to work quickly and effectively, reducing stress in young patients.

“When we received the application from Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, it was clear their community clinics could benefit greatly from the specialty pediatric equipment requested,” said Laura Phillips Ward, President of the local RMHC chapter. “RMHC is proud to help in funding such a deserving project, and we are pleased to see so many local children and families being helped by these wonderful clinics.”

The items purchased with the help of this grant are as follows:

- **Light Stroke Thermometers** – Taking the temperature of infants and toddlers is sometimes a difficult task; however taking a temperature with a light stroke thermometer is fast, accurate, and comfortable for the child. This type of thermometer eliminates any discomfort caused by a rectal thermometer and is more accurate than a digital ear thermometer.
- **Spot Vital Signs Machine** – During each well-baby visit and sick-child visit, nurses need to measure the patients' vital signs (temperature, pulse and respirations). The Spot Vital Signs machine is a faster, comfortable, and more effective way to take vital signs.
- **Health-o-Meter Digital Scale** – During each visit with a pediatric provider, the baby/child needs to be weighed. The new scales replaced outdated scales that were in need of replacement and measure babies and children easily and accurately.
- **Hearing Screener** – The screener is used to detect hearing loss and diagnose language disabilities. It is a child-friendly hearing screener that is accurate and easy to use by pediatric providers. Children who are identified with hearing loss at an early age and receive ongoing therapy in their preschool years do better in school compared to children whose hearing loss is diagnosed after they begin Kindergarten.
- **Bili-Meter** – The bili-meter is used to measure the intensity of phototherapy treatment delivered by bili-lights for infant jaundice management. Although jaundice is common in most babies to some degree, babies who are born prematurely or high-risk babies have a greater chance of cases of significant jaundice. The clinics' target populations have disproportionate numbers of premature and high-risk infants.

RMHC of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts is a non-profit organization managed by a volunteer Board of Directors. RMHC receives its funding from individual donors, McDonald's customers who drop change in the in-store canisters, a portion of all McDonald's Happy Meal® sales, fundraisers, and through the generosity of McDonald's owner/operators who are committed to the communities they serve. For more information on how to help RMHC, visit www.rmhc-ctma.org/donate.

Since 1988 RMHC of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts has provided more than \$6 million to over 400 non-profit organizations, helping thousands of area children lead happier, healthier and more productive lives. RMHC and its global network of local chapters in over 50 countries and regions have awarded more than \$460 million in grants and program services supporting children worldwide. For more information about RMHC, please visit www.rmhc-ctma.org or connect on facebook.com/rmhc.ctma.

Saint Francis Care is an integrated healthcare delivery system established by Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, an anchor institution in north central Connecticut since 1897. Licensed for 617 beds and 65 bassinets, it is a major teaching hospital and the largest Catholic hospital in New England. Other major entities of Saint Francis Care include The Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, the Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute, the Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut, the Saint Francis/Mount Sinai Regional Cancer Center, and the Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care and Neuroscience Research. Its services are supported by a network of five major Access Centers and eight additional medical office centers sited throughout the region. For more information, visit www.stfranciscare.com.

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