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### **Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center Receives Gift for its Hope & Healing Campaign to Transform Cancer Services**

HARTFORD, Conn. (Dec. 8, 2017) 'Tis the season of giving and Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center has received a truly magnificent gift – a seven figure investment - from Joyce and Andrew Mandell to the Saint Francis Foundation's Hope & Healing campaign which will expand and transform the hospital's cancer center.

The Mandell family's generosity will focus on an oncology rehabilitation center, as well as a hope and healing garden that will be included in the anticipated \$8 million expansion of the 45,000-square foot Smilow Cancer Hospital Yale-New Haven at Saint Francis.

"We are deeply grateful to the Mandell family for their incredible generosity, their philanthropic spirit and personal commitment to transforming the health of their community," said hospital President John F. Rodis, M.D., M.B.A. "It is due to the dedication and generosity of benefactors like the Mandells that Saint Francis has been able to play a vital role in providing the very best care possible to our community,"

The new Comprehensive Oncology Rehabilitation Center will restore cancer patients' and cancer survivors' quality of life and provide them with the path to complete physical, emotional, and psychological wellness. A wide array of services will meet all the rehabilitation needs of patients whose lives have been significantly impacted by their cancer and by the clinical treatments that are used to address their specific cancers.

"This gift will have a profound effect on our patients, their families and our entire community," said Lynn B. Rossini, Saint Francis Foundation vice president and chief development officer, "We are so deeply grateful for the support of our friends and partners who continue to help us grow, surpass our goals, and transform patients' lives. When we count our blessing, the Mandell family is among our greatest gifts."

For years, the Mandells' philanthropic support has impacted the lives of thousands of patients with multiple sclerosis through their investment and active involvement in the internationally recognized *The Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care and Neuroscience Research* on the North Campus of Saint Francis on Blue Hills Avenue.

"We are proud to partner with the Saint Francis Foundation to focus attention on cancer rehabilitation. The healing gardens will become a very special place for patients to relax and enjoy the beauty and healing powers of nature," the Mandells stated in announcing their gift.

Their investment in the rehabilitation center will allow caregivers to design individualized pre-treatment, intra-treatment and post-treatment rehabilitation programs for patients that will focus on the specific physical and emotional issues that are the result of their cancer and their clinical cancer treatment. Rehabilitation will span across the continuum of care for oncology patients including services at the Cancer Care Center, the Comprehensive Oncology Rehabilitation Center, Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, as well as home rehabilitation services for some cancer patients.

Research will be a core component of the center and will be led by researchers at the Mandell Neuroscience Research Center/Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital. Emotional wellbeing, quality of life, functional mobility, pain management, and care delivery are examples of the outcome focus areas for research. The research will provide continuous improvements to the Comprehensive Oncology Rehabilitation Center and will develop a model for other cancer centers to adopt.

Recovery from cancer requires a wide range of therapies and services that rebuild strength and endurance, help the patient regain their independence, and relieve their stress, pain, anxiety, and depression - all the sequela of cancer treatments. Many cancer survivors experience lasting, adverse effects caused either by the disease or by its treatment.

Earlier this year, Saint Francis unveiled a \$3 million transformation of its 20 room oncology pavilion on the hospital's eighth floor.

#### **About Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center**

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center has been an anchor institution in north central Connecticut since 1897. In 2015, Saint Francis became part of Trinity Health Of New England, an integrated health care delivery system that is a member of Trinity Health, Livonia, Michigan, one of the largest multi-institutional Catholic health care delivery systems in the nation serving communities in 22 states. Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center is licensed for 617 beds, is a major teaching hospital and the largest Catholic hospital in New England. Other Saint Francis entities include the Comprehensive Women's Health Center, the Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute, the Curtis D. Robinson Center for Health Equity, the Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut, the Smilow Cancer Hospital Yale-New Haven at Saint Francis, and Saint Francis Medical Group. Visit [saintfranciscares.com](http://saintfranciscares.com) for more information and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @SaintFrancisCT