



Catholic Healthcare West

NEWS RELEASE

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CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE WEST SHOWS ITS COMMITMENT TO MISSION WITH “GO GREEN” EFFORTS

CHANDLER and GILBERT, Ariz. (July 2, 2008) – From paper, aluminum, plastic and cardboard recycling programs to energy conservation initiatives, Chandler Regional Medical Center and Mercy Gilbert Medical Center, members of Catholic Healthcare West (CHW), are committed to the environment and is seeing results from its efforts.

“Our mission is to partner with others to improve the quality of life,” said Martin Breeden, vice president of Mission Integration at Chandler Regional Medical Center and Mercy Gilbert Medical Center. “We strive to reach our mission not only by caring for people who are ill, but by taking care of the environment in which we all live and work.”

Over the last several months, CHW has replaced water coolers throughout their facilities to utilize a filtration system rather than a reverse osmosis system. Prior to this change, the reverse osmosis system used three gallons of water to produce one gallon of purified water. In January 2008, the hospitals purchased a more efficient water softening system, which uses less water and salt. Approximately 182,000 gallons of water and 73,000 pounds of salt will be saved each year as a result of installing the system. Additionally, reusable mugs have been supplied to all employees, including new hires, and volunteers.

“Although we’ve made great strides, we felt that we needed to reduce our consumption of plastic water bottles even more,” said John Walters, director of the Environment of Care for Chandler Regional Medical Center and Mercy Gilbert Medical Center. He notes that with the support of CHW’s executive leadership team, it became mandatory for all internal catered meetings to receive a pitcher of water and cups rather than plastic water bottles. “If you think about it, more than 90 percent of the environmental impact from a plastic bottle happens before the consumer opens it,” he said. A recent report published by the Earth Policy Institute states that it takes 1.5 million barrels of oil a year just to make the plastic water bottles Americans use - enough to make gas for 27,000 drivers for a year.

CHW has had a cardboard recycling program in place since May 2006. In that time, 217,000 pounds of cardboard have been recycled at Chandler Regional Medical Center, and 213,000 pounds have been recycled at Mercy Gilbert Medical Center. In addition to cardboard recycling, both hospitals also have a paper recycling program in place. As of

July 2007, approximately 200,000 pounds of paper were recycled at Chandler Regional Medical Center, the equivalent of saving 1,700 trees. During the same timeframe, approximately 140,000 pounds of paper were recycled at Mercy Gilbert Medical Center, which is equivalent to saving nearly 1,200 trees.

“On average, we recycle 77 percent of the paper we purchase each month,” said Breeden. “The remaining paper is sent home with patients or visitors or is filed in appropriate departments within the hospitals.” Breeden notes that in addition to ramping up our recycling efforts, CHW is working to develop a paper reduction task force in an effort to decrease our consumption even more.

This spring, CHW partnered with Chandler-Gilbert ARC to assist with the collection of recyclable materials, such as aluminum, glass and plastic, at both hospitals. Chandler-Gilbert ARC is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing training and support to adolescents and adults with developmental disabilities throughout the state.

CHW has also put efforts into saving energy while operating the hospital more efficiently. Over the years the hospitals have changed lighting and now use a more efficient fluorescent light bulb. Motion sensors in conference rooms and restrooms have been installed so the lights turn off when the room is not being used.

“We are proud of our Go Green efforts, and are continually looking for additional partnerships to help CHW conserve more energy and aid in our recycling initiatives. We want to be sure we are doing all we can to help make a positive impact on our environment,” said Breeden.

About Catholic Healthcare West

Catholic Healthcare West (CHW) is the eighth largest hospital system in the nation and one of the largest not-for-profit hospital providers in the West. Founded in 1986, the CHW network of more than 8,500 physicians and approximately 50,000 employees serve a population spanning 22 million people at 43 hospitals across California, Arizona, and Nevada. CHW is committed to delivering compassionate, high-quality, affordable healthcare services with special attention to the poor and underserved. In fiscal year 2007, CHW provided \$922 million in charity care, community benefits, and unreimbursed patient care. CHW facilities in Arizona include Chandler Regional Medical Center, Mercy Gilbert Medical Center, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center and Barrow Neurological Institute, CHW Urgent Cares in Ahwatukee, Gilbert and Queen Creek, Sun Lakes Laboratory, Warner Outpatient Surgery and the Arizona Orthopedic Surgical Hospital. For more information, please visit our Website at www.chwHEALTH.org.

About Chandler Regional Medical Center

Chandler Regional Medical Center is a 225-bed, acute-care, non-for-profit provider of emergency care, maternal child services, cardiovascular services, wound healing, cancer treatment, diabetes treatment, and diagnostic services. It is located at 475 S. Dobson Road (corner of Dobson Road and Frye Road) in Chandler. For more information, please

visit www.chandlerregional.org or call 480-728-3000. Chandler Regional Medical Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). For employment opportunities please contact the Human Resources Department at 480-728-3424. For information on physician referrals or community classes and support groups, please contact the ResourceLink toll-free at 1.877.728.5414 or resourcelink@chw.edu.

About Mercy Gilbert Medical Center

Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is located at the intersection of Val Vista Drive and Loop 202 (south of Pecos Road and east of Val Vista Drive). Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is a four-story, full-service acute-care facility with 92 beds. Expansion of the second tower is underway and will open in February 2008 adding 90 beds and a pediatric and adolescent unit. For more information, please visit www.mercygilbert.org or call 480-728-8000. Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). For employment opportunities please contact the Human Resources Department at 480-728-8396. For information on physician referrals or community classes and support groups, please contact the ResourceLink toll-free at 1.877.728.5414 or resourcelink@chw.edu.

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