



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Hospital Auxiliary Presents Check to St. Charles Hospital**

The St. Charles Hospital Auxiliary recently announced that in 2009 it raised a total of \$135,333 for the hospital. Billie Schretzman, president, St. Charles Hospital's Auxiliary, presented a check to Jim O'Connor, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, at the annual Christmas luncheon. The Auxiliary raised the funds throughout 2009 through operation of the hospital's Gift Shop, baby photograph sales, patient TV and phone rentals, craft fairs, raffle ticket sales and numerous other activities.

Jim O'Connor stated, "We are blessed to have this dedicated group of men and women volunteer their time and talents to raise funds for programs and services at St. Charles. Our Auxiliary works tirelessly on behalf of the hospital and we are deeply grateful for their commitment. Each and every Auxilian is an outstanding model of community outreach."

Funds raised by the Auxiliary will benefit the hospital's renovation and expansion of the operating room suite. The 18 month project began last fall and is due to be completed in the first quarter of 2011. The expansion will include 3 new operating rooms complete with state-of-the-art equipment.

Irene Francis, president, of the Northport Chapter of the St. Charles Hospital Auxiliary, also presented the hospital with a \$6,000 check at the Christmas luncheon. The funds will provide for the purchase of a Prairie Seating Simulator for the pediatric rehabilitation unit. The simulator is used to determine the most appropriate seating/wheelchair system. The simulator allows for optimum posture before deciding on a final system and personalized components. "This donation by the Northport Chapter will go a long ways in making the world a more assessable place for our youngest patients with disabilities," Mr. O'Connor said. "Each year the pediatric patients benefit from the hard work of these devoted women and we are thankful for all their efforts."

The St. Charles Hospital Auxiliary meets monthly and participates in fundraising events throughout the year. For more information on becoming a member of the St. Charles Hospital Auxiliary, please call (631) 474-6251.

**CAPTION:** Jim O'Connor is presented with checks from Billie Schretzman, President, St. Charles Hospital Auxiliary, and Margaret Pecchio, President, St. Charles Hospital Auxiliary/Northport Chapter.

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