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**MetroHealth Receives \$1.25 Million
to Support New Health Care Model for Older Adults**
Unique collaboration helps to revitalize Cleveland neighborhood

(Cleveland, Ohio) The Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Foundation has awarded MetroHealth a \$1.25 million grant to fund a new model of senior health care that will save millions of dollars in Medicaid and Medicare costs each year. A collaborative initiative between MetroHealth and three other well-known senior health organizations – Benjamin Rose, Concordia Care, and the Visiting Nurse Association’s Hospice and Palliative Care Partners of Ohio – will create the Senior Health and Wellness Center (SHWC) at MetroHealth South, formerly Deaconess Hospital.

The SHWC, slated for completion in late 2007, will be the first of its kind in the country to provide a coordinated delivery system of care in a convenient, one-stop location serving all levels of older adult health care need. The goal of the SHWC collaboration is to keep seniors as healthy and independent as possible while providing comprehensive services such as outpatient primary and specialty care, adult day care, long-term skilled nursing care, and hospice care, all under one roof. A “mall” area featuring community service agencies, an indoor walking area, gift shop, barber and beauty shop, and cafeteria is also planned.

“There’s an overwhelming amount of evidence out there that supports the necessity of a comprehensive center to address all aspects of senior health care and support needs,” said Pamela Alexander, Prentiss Foundation Board of Managers member. “Given MetroHealth’s reputation as a national leader in the areas of community health and senior care – coupled with the partnership formed with three of the area’s most well-known older adult care organizations – we feel that this project will provide seniors with the services they need and deserve to live longer, healthier lives.”

The \$1.25 million grant from the Prentiss Foundation is the largest of three awarded to MetroHealth in the past eight years. Previously, the Foundation granted \$1 million in 1998 to help build MetroHealth’s Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Center for Skilled Nursing Care and \$225,000 in 2005 to support the Metro Life Flight Nursing Program.

“This generous gift is evidence of the faithful support we’ve received from the Prentiss Foundation over the past years and its commitment to promoting senior health care services,” said James Campbell, M.D., MetroHealth’s chair of Family Medicine and director of Geriatric Health. “We’re extremely honored and grateful for this gift and for an opportunity to build upon the strength of a relationship that has lasted nearly a decade.”

Opening in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood, the \$65 million SHWC project represents MetroHealth's largest single fundraising initiative to date, with efforts underway to raise the \$30 million in government and philanthropic support needed to complete the renovation. More than 71% of the total project cost has been secured to date.

Within the first five years, the facility is expected to generate \$260 million in economic benefit. Also, according to a review by Deloitte Consulting, it is estimated it will reduce Medicaid and Medicare costs by \$55 million. The SHWC also will create 700 jobs generating \$22 million in state and local income taxes and provide 740,000 patient and family encounters.

MetroHealth acquired the former Deaconess Hospital out of bankruptcy court for \$3.8 million in April of 2005 and reopened the shuttered hospital in October 2005 to accommodate a data center and new offices for 450 employees in information technology and financial services.

The MetroHealth System is one of the nation's largest and most successful public health care providers, offering health care for the most critically injured trauma victim to skilled nursing care for the chronically ill. Affiliated with Case Western Reserve University since 1914, MetroHealth continues its long-standing teaching reputation and research excellence, offering vital training and research opportunities for students and physicians. MetroHealth conducts cutting-edge research in biomedical sciences, particularly in the areas of cancer, heart, liver, and kidney research. For more information about The MetroHealth System, visit www.metrohealth.org.

The MetroHealth Foundation is instrumental in supporting The MetroHealth System's mission of providing high quality health care regardless of ability to pay and its vision of being a national leader in preserving and promoting community health. The Foundation collaborates with The MetroHealth System in determining strategic objectives for growth and proactively pursues philanthropic support opportunities to secure the mission and vision. The MetroHealth Foundation funds programs and projects in patient care, scientific and clinical research, and medical education.