

NEWS RELEASE



† CATHOLIC HEALTH
INITIATIVES

Saint Joseph Heart Institute

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Appalachian Regional Healthcare Announces Affiliation With Saint Joseph Heart Institute

September 11, 2007, Hazard, Ky. --- Appalachian Regional Healthcare (ARH) officials announced today its affiliation with the state's leader in cardiac care to provide residents of Eastern Kentucky the best in heart care.

As part of the affiliation, ARH has entered into a clinical management agreement with the renowned Saint Joseph Heart Institute, part of Lexington-based Saint Joseph HealthCare, and Surgical Associates of Lexington, to head up cardiac care services provided at Hazard ARH Regional Medical Center.

"ARH has ambitiously built a new level of healthcare for the people we serve in Eastern Kentucky through the addition of open heart surgery and interventional cardiology services in Hazard as well as numerous other advanced services," said Jerry Haynes, President and CEO for the ARH system. "The affiliation with Saint Joseph will further enhance the services provided at Hazard ARH and will improve the efficiency and quality of cardiac care throughout southeastern Kentucky."

As part of the agreement, Saint Joseph Heart Institute and the Surgical Associates of Lexington, under the leadership of Surgical Medical Director Michael Sekela, MD, will provide cardiovascular surgery and related care for Hazard ARH's cardiac care program. Saint Joseph will also provide relief cardiology services, patient education, staff education and training, and a comprehensive system of clinical oversight and a quality data management system. The Surgical Associates of Lexington will provide physician services for open heart surgery procedures at Hazard ARH. The clinical management agreement is effective October 1.

“It's been a desire of mine to work with ARH in Hazard for several years,” said Michael Sekela, MD, a cardiothoracic and general surgeon with 26 years experience. “I look forward to meeting and working with community members and patients as we collaborate to strengthen heart care in Eastern Kentucky.”

The open heart surgery program at Hazard ARH began in January 2005 and includes \$4 million in state-of-the-art surgery and patient care equipment. The program also offers a dedicated cardiovascular operating room, surgical team and recovery unit, as well as two comprehensive cardiac catheterization labs. The program was the product of five years of planning, and in preparation for the 2005 kick-off of the open heart program, a team of ARH nurses trained alongside the surgical staff at Saint Joseph Hospital.

“This partnership is consistent with our regional goals to provide access to quality care closer to home,” said Gene Woods, President and CEO of Saint Joseph HealthCare. “Through our facilities in Berea and Mount Sterling, and affiliations in Harrodsburg, and now Hazard, we want patients to know that they can access the Saint Joseph Heart Institute in more convenient locations. I commend Jerry Haynes for his vision to expand the level and quality of heart care for communities served by ARH.”

The open heart surgery program at Saint Joseph was the first in Central Kentucky to perform open heart surgery, and last year performed more open heart surgeries than any other hospital in the state. Nationally recognized for the level of quality care it provides, Saint Joseph Hospital recently was notified of the receipt of an overall quality composite rating of “3 Stars,” the highest quality tier (on a scale of 1-3 Stars), from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons for its Open Heart Surgery program. Approximately 15 percent of hospitals received the “3-Star” rating, which denotes the highest category of quality. Saint Joseph has also been named one of the 50 Best Heart Hospitals in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.

“We believe this affiliation with Saint Joseph will help us ensure that our residents receive only the best care for advanced cardiac procedures and will spare patients and their families the cost and time associated with traveling to other areas for a procedure they can have right here at home by a team of nationally recognized medical professionals,” Haynes said.

“This affiliation will provide our patients continuity of care. Patients can be assured they will receive services that are appropriate for them whether that be at Hazard ARH Regional Medical Center or Saint Joseph’s Heart Institute in Lexington,” Haynes added.

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[About Appalachian Regional Healthcare \(ARH\)](#) is a not-for-profit health system serving 350,000 residents across Eastern Kentucky and Southern West Virginia. Operating

nine hospitals, multi-specialty physician practices, home health agencies, HomeCare Stores and retail pharmacies, ARH is the largest provider of care and single largest employer in southeastern Kentucky and the third largest private employer in southern West Virginia.

The ARH system employs 4,400 employees and has a network of more than 400 active and courtesy medical staff members representing various specialties.

Firmly committed to its mission of improving the health and promoting the well-being of all people in Eastern Kentucky and Southern West Virginia, ARH provided more than \$96 million in charity and uncompensated care in the past year alone.

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About Saint Joseph HealthCare

Since 1877, Saint Joseph Hospital, a 468-bed tertiary medical center has offered the highest quality patient care to the community of central and eastern Kentucky. As Lexington's first hospital, Saint Joseph, also known as Lexington's "heart hospital," has pioneered many firsts in the health care community. Saint Joseph has also been nationally recognized for treatment in the areas of cardiology, orthopedics and stroke, by U.S. News & World Report and Solucient.

Saint Joseph East, a 174-bed community hospital, offers a wide array of services including a comprehensive women's health program, including the Saint Joseph Breast Center, maternity and OB/GYN services, and the Center for Weight Loss Surgery. Saint Joseph East houses Lexington's only after-hours pediatric emergency center, Kid Traxx. In 2005 and 2006, Saint Joseph East was named one of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals by Solucient.

In 2005, the 25-bed Berea Hospital joined Saint Joseph HealthCare and was renamed Saint Joseph Berea.

In 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 Saint Joseph Hospital and Saint Joseph East were two of only four hospitals nationwide to be recognized for four consecutive years as distinguished hospitals for patient satisfaction and service excellence by J.D. Power and Associates.

In 2006, Saint Joseph received the highest recognition of any organization in the state by the Kentucky Center for Performance Excellence; and received the Quality award from the Kentucky Hospital Association.

In August 2007, Mary Chiles Hospital in Mount Sterling joined Saint Joseph HealthCare and was renamed Saint Joseph Mount Sterling. A new, replacement hospital for Saint Joseph Mount Sterling is expected to open in 2010.

Saint Joseph Jessamine, an ambulatory care center with a 24/7 emergency room, is currently under construction and is slated to open in 2008 in Nicholasville.