

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE LORETTO HOSPITAL FOUNDATION TO HOST
9TH ANNUAL SPIRIT OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD GALA
Promoting New Diabetes Total Life Center**

CHICAGO, IL – March 15, 2012 – The Loretto Hospital Foundation (LHF) is hosting its 9th Annual Spirit of Achievement Award Gala on April 3, 2012 at the Grossinger City Autoplex to honor Tyrone Stoudemire, vice president of global community, diversity and inclusion at Aon Hewitt. Stoudemire is Black Enterprise Magazine’s “2011 Top Executive in Diversity” winner because of his notable contributions to empowering minority communities and his expertise in intercultural relations.

“What is most intriguing about Tyrone is that he is the best there is when it comes to combining his professional life, his church life and his community,” Barry Axler said, executive director of the LHF.

The Spirit of Achievement Award dinner was first initiated in 2003 by the LHF as a yearly event with a three-fold purpose: to celebrate exemplary individuals who have demonstrated a life-long commitment to improving the lives of others and their community; to raise money for Loretto Hospital; and, to introduce the hospital to people outside of the Austin community who would not otherwise know about the facility or all the health initiatives it provides to its residents.

Certainly the LHF’s most prestigious event of the year, the award dinner also offers honorees a chance to continue their outstanding service to the community by establishing a newly created healthcare program, center or fund in their name at Loretto through various sponsorship opportunities.

Sponsorship levels for this event include: Presenting Sponsor for \$25,000; Dinner Sponsor for \$15,000; Life Saver for \$10,000; Caregiver for \$5,000; Heart-to-Heart for \$2,500; and, Patient Support for \$250. In addition, a special raffle will be held for a chance to win a new 2012 Cadillac CTS.

As the 2012 honoree, Stoudemire – and all proceeds from this event – will support the Tyrone Stoudemire Fund for the establishment of the Loretto Hospital Total Life Center, a facility which will focus on people battling diabetes. The Center is also a direct strategy by the LHF and hospital staff to continue its mission to educate patients and provide high quality healthcare to the Austin and surrounding communities. It will be housed inside Loretto and will comprise of exercise equipment, and complete diabetes management and care through nutrition education, medication management and counseling.

“Mr. Stoudemire has a heart for community relations and the underserved. Because Loretto Hospital is a champion for the underserved community, supporting a center like this is very important to him,” Catherine Kirk said, executive assistant to Stoudemire.

According to Axler, in addition to generating much needed money for hospital programs, the Spirit of Achievement Award event has helped to boost Loretto’s image and affirm its long-standing promise to provide accessible quality care to those in need.

“Because of this event, we have created a wonderful and positive perception of the hospital – one that was previously unknown to Chicago,” Axler said.

With a firm commitment to support Loretto Hospital’s goal to be a valued community-based caregiver, LHF has made substantive contributions since its inception in 2000. Over the years – with an accumulation of proceeds from various events, sponsorships and donations – the foundation has supported the hospital by purchasing state-of-the-art equipment, and by helping to fund much needed medical programs.

As for the monetary target for this year’s event: “Our goal is to raise \$300,000, and hopefully people will feel compelled to continue to support this effort and all of the foundation’s efforts so that we can continue providing excellent healthcare to this community,” Jill Bush said, associate director of LHF.

To learn more about the Loretto Hospital Foundation, or to find out how to support the 9th Annual Spirit of Achievement Award Gala, contact Jill Bush, associate director, at 773-854-4200.

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About the Loretto Hospital Foundation

Formed in 2000, the Loretto Hospital Foundation (LHF) is a not-for-profit organization and is the primary fundraising entity for Loretto Hospital. The LHF's primary goal is to help promote Loretto's mission to provide quality patient centered care and promote wellness and education. Since its inception, the LHF has purchased clinical equipment, transportation vehicles, and has supported various health programs and screenings in the Austin Community. For more information, please visit www.lorettohospitalfoundation.org

About Loretto Hospital

Loretto Hospital is a not-for-profit, community-based hospital located in Austin, the largest community in Chicago. Loretto is the only hospital in the Austin community and is the largest non-government employer in the Austin community. The hospital has more than 600 staff, comprising of 170 physicians and 300 nursing professionals. Although the largest percentage of the hospital's patients resides in Austin and Garfield Park, neighboring suburban communities also utilize Loretto as a healthcare resource. For more information, please visit www.lorettohospital.org