

Press Release

Contact: Marnie Robinson
Phone: (312) 854-5485
Marnie.Robinson@lorettohospital.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE LORETTO HOSPITAL FOUNDATION TO HOST
8TH ANNUAL SPIRIT OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD DINNER
Promoting New Cancer Resource Center**

CHICAGO, IL – March 29, 2011 – The Loretto Hospital Foundation (LHF) is hosting its 8th Annual Spirit of Achievement Award Dinner on April 7, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency, Chicago, honoring Connie L. Lindsey, executive vice president of the Northern Trust Company and national president of the Girl Scouts of the USA. Lindsey is being recognized for her outstanding leadership at Northern Trust and for being the highest ranking volunteer for the Girl Scouts of the USA, an organization comprised of 3.4 million members.

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 the work of the hospital.

This year's award dinner is expected to be the foundation's most spectacular affair yet with: Lindsey as the first female Spirit of Achievement Award recipient; ABC-7's Cheryl Burton as the emcee; and, five-time Emmy Award winner and CBS 2 Chicago reporter Derrick Blakley as the guest speaker.

“What is most intriguing about Connie is that she fits the profile of an individual who is serving humanity above self, and she has a strong commitment of making this a better, safer and healthier community,” Barry Axler said, executive director of the LHF.

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

As the 2011 honoree, Lindsey is supporting the development of the Connie L. Lindsey Cancer Resource Center at Loretto Hospital. The new cancer resource center is another 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. The resource center will maintain videos, brochures, and other valuable information about various types of cancer, available treatment and nutrition. In addition, qualified volunteers and trained clinicians may be on hand to assist visitors.

“While this center has my name on it, it’s not about me. It’s really about the mission and the work. I want this center to feel like hope, health and happiness. I want people to be comfortable. We want people to have someone to whom they can go. And, hopefully people will continue to contribute long after April 7 is done and this work can multiply,” Lindsey said.

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 \$3,000; and, Patient Support for \$300.

According to Barry Axler, in addition to generating much needed money for hospital programs, the Spirit of Achievement Award dinner 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 care giver, the LHF has made substantive contributions since its inception in 2000. With the accumulated proceeds from various events, sponsorships and donations, over the years, the foundation has offered a myriad of support from purchasing state-of-the-art equipment, to helping to fund and endorse various medical programs.

As for the monetary target for this year’s event: “If we can raise \$1 million then we can go from there, because there is so much work to do and so many people to touch,” Lindsey said.

To learn more about the Loretto Hospital Foundation, or to find out how to support the 8th Annual Spirit of Achievement Award Dinner, please contact Barry Axler, executive director, at 773-854-5007 or visit the foundation’s website at www.lorettohospitalfoundation.org

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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