



St. Mary's Medical Center

A member of CHW

## NEWS RELEASE

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### *A History of Caring – A Future of Healing Cancer Center and Vascular Suite Capital Campaign*

#### **Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Cancer Center at St. Mary's Medical Center**

Anna Cheung, President and CEO of St. Mary's Medical Center, announces a public groundbreaking celebration for a new comprehensive state-of-the-art oncology center. The celebration is scheduled for Wednesday, March 31, 2010 at 12 noon at St. Mary's.

Hospital leadership and donors to St. Mary's Foundation will gather with dignitaries from Catholic Healthcare West and the City and County of San Francisco on the ground floor of the St. Mary's medical office building at 2250 Hayes, adjacent to the main hospital. Musical entertainment by Star of the Sea School Choir and vocalist, Michelle Jordan will accompany a symbolic planting of healing herbs to launch the construction.

#### **The Campaign**

Caring and compassionate service is the hallmark of St. Mary's Medical Center and the new Cancer Center is designed to put the medical, emotional and practical needs of the patient at the core of the new facility.

The new Cancer Center will enable St. Mary's to offer:

- chemotherapy infusion with an emphasis on privacy and comfort
- precise radiation therapies with the most advanced linear accelerator available
- one central registration area
- a staffed resource center for patients and their families
- convenient parking within 50 feet of registration
- ample access to public transportation
- digital mammography; state-of-the-art screening for breast cancer
- includes a vascular suite to serve cardio vascular patients

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### **The Need**

There are not enough radiation therapy services to meet the community's growing needs. Cancer incidence in San Francisco has averaged approximately 4,000 new cases annually, and that number is on the rise as our population ages. Despite this, medical providers have limited their investment in radiation therapy for cancer due to managed care barriers among other factors. Some patients have to wait up to three weeks to begin treatment due to the lack of capacity.

### **The Solution**

St. Mary's is stepping in to fill this gap by beginning construction on the new Cancer Center. This \$23 million investment has the backing of Catholic Healthcare West, St. Mary's Medical Center and St. Mary's Foundation. The foundation is committed to raising \$8.75 million so that St. Mary's can provide the best diagnosis and compassionate care for people facing cancer or cardiovascular disease – a true matter of life and death.

Commitments have come in from the hospital employees, federal support and individual donors.

For more information regarding the Campaign, contact:

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### **ABOUT ST. MARY'S MEDICAL CENTER:**

St. Mary's Medical Center (SMMC), a member of Catholic Healthcare West, has cared for the people of the San Francisco Bay Area since 1857. Today, it is one of the largest not-for-profit, community-based healthcare providers in Northern California. Home to the nation's first digital cardiac catheterization laboratory, pioneering spine and total joint surgery center and a full-range of inpatient and outpatient medical services, SMMC physicians are considered experts in their field. With more than 550 physicians, 1,100 employees and 400 patient beds, St. Mary's is committed to furthering the healing ministry of Jesus, and to providing high-quality, affordable healthcare to the community we serve. For more information, please call 415-668-1000 or visit [www.stmarysmedicalcenter.org](http://www.stmarysmedicalcenter.org)

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