

## A Green Hospital Growing in North Tampa

**TAMPA, Fla. (December 11, 2009)** – Planted in the middle of cabbage palm, live oak and saw palmetto, a “green” hospital is growing in North Tampa.

St. Joseph’s Hospital-North was designed with an environmentally sustainable philosophy to create a landscape of open space, providing habitat for wildlife and natural views for patients.

The environmentally friendly building is made of materials that support energy conservation and clean air with low chemical emissions and recycled content. The soothing elements of the outdoors are brought indoors creating a calm, peaceful, healing environment for patients.

“Buildings are one of the largest consumers of resources and energy in this country,” said Paula McGuiness, chief operating officer of St. Joseph’s Hospital-North. “St. Joseph’s Hospitals and BayCare Health System believe in being leaders of environmental stewardship, innovation and corporate responsibility.”

St. Joseph’s Hospital-North is concentrating on key categories to achieve green building certification developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The hospital is a LEED-applicant, expected to receive third-party verification that it was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance in energy and water efficiency, emissions, indoor environmental quality and materials and resources.

Energy saving strategies include individual controls for lighting and heating to promote productivity, comfort and well-being of building occupants. High-efficiency systems that reduce energy consumption will use 12 percent less energy than a standard building. Refrigerants were selected that minimize the impact on ozone depletion and global warming.

Other examples of environmental stewardship include:

- Preferred parking for low-emission and fuel-efficient vehicles.
- A roofing system that helps reduce the heat effect and keep temperatures cooler.
- Low-flow water fixtures that use 20 percent less water than standard buildings.
- Landscape that is maintained with 100 percent reclaimed water from retention ponds.
- Use of low-emission paints, adhesives, sealants, fabrics and carpets inside of the building to which provide cleaner air to breathe.
- Use of construction materials from local sources, which supports the regional economy and reduces environmental impacts from transportation.

St. Joseph’s Hospital-North opens February 2010. The \$225 million, 350,000-square-foot-facility primarily will serve northern Hillsborough and southern Pasco counties.

###