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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. James Mercy Announces 2011 “Nurse of Excellence” Award During National Nurses’ Week

Hornell, NY – The highlight of National Nurses’ Week at St. James Mercy Hospital was the announcement of the 2011 “Nurse of Excellence” Award winner, **Linda Jersey, RN**.

Ms. Jersey is a nurse on the medical/surgical unit and has worked at St. James Mercy since 1981. Her nomination included accolades such as, “She is an advocate for her patients and their families, and is an excellent role model.” “Linda is an outstanding example of a professional and compassionate nurse. She is very attentive to patients and their needs. Everyone is treated like the unique person that they are.”

The selection process is based on written nominations submitted by peers that demonstrate the following attributes: “clinical proficiency, teamwork, service of excellence inpatient care and contributions to St. James and the community.” With over seventeen different nurses nominated from the Hospital, nursing home, and clinics, the committee was challenged in choosing between so many well-qualified and skilled nurses.

According to Trish Uldrich, Chief Nursing Officer at St. James Mercy, “Nurses represent the largest group of health care workers in America, at 2.9 million strong. St. James is very fortunate to employ over 200 of these compassionate professionals who play such a vital role in the outcomes of our patient care. Not only do these nurses provide hands-on patient care but they must also be committed to continuing their education throughout their careers.”

The nursing profession is often described as an art and a science that embraces dedicated people with varied interests, strengths and passions because of the many opportunities the profession offers. Nurses have many roles – from staff nurse to educator to nurse practitioner and nurse researcher – and serve all of them with passion for the profession and with a strong commitment to patient safety.

The 2011 theme for National Nurses Week, which begins each year on May 6 and ends on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, is “*Nurses Trusted to Care*”. St. James Mercy honors all 200 of its nursing staff and thanks them for the spirit of care and service they so readily give.

“Nurse of Excellence” 2011 Awardee

Linda Jersey, RN

