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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL WELCOMES  
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE  
TEAM FROM JAPAN**

*Belleville, IL* - St. Elizabeth's Hospital is participating in Rotary International's Group Study Exchange program by hosting a registered nurse team member from Japan.

The GSE program of The Rotary Foundation annually arranges the exchange of approximately 500 teams of business and professional people between two paired Rotary districts in different countries to enhance international understanding and good will. While living with Rotarian families, team members study the culture of the host country and how their professional peers practice their vocations. The team will tour several Rotarian sites throughout Southern District 6510.

One of the Japanese team members, Sachiko Kotani, is a registered nurse who will be touring St. Elizabeth's Hospital on May 19 with members of Administration and host Rotarian Jim Burke, legal consultant for to the hospital.

Kotani has been a nurse for eight years in Japan. She has worked in

Internal Medicine, Urology, and Orthopedics.

"We look forward to this opportunity to share knowledge and techniques as well as expand our understanding of each others' culture," said Burke, a member of the O'Fallon Rotary who had previously lived in Japan for three years with his wife Dorothy. He is hosting Kotani at his home during her stay. "It is yet another example of how St. Elizabeth's promotes its mission of healing both locally and internationally."

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, and help to build goodwill and peace in the world. There are approximately 1.2 million Rotarians who are - members of more than 31,000 Rotary clubs in more than 165 countries.

**About St. Elizabeth's Hospital** St. Elizabeth's Hospital, in Belleville, IL, maintains a Gold Seal of approval from the Joint Commission. The hospital was founded by the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in 1875. Today, we continue their mission: to provide care for the sick and needy with a spirit of respect, care, competence and joy. St. Elizabeth's Hospital provides over \$44 million of uncompensated benefits and services for the poor, elderly, disabled and broader community in general. For more information please contact Kelly Barbeau at 618.234.2120, extension 1270.

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