



**St. Elizabeth's Hospital
Marketing Department**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL TO HOST TOWN HALL MEETING WITH
U.S. SENATOR DICK DURBIN ON MAY 27, 2009**

Belleville, IL – United States Senate Assistant Majority Leader, Dick Durbin of Illinois, will take part in a Town Hall Meeting hosted by St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville. The event will be held in the Centennial Room of the 135-year-old Southern Illinois healthcare provider on **Wednesday, May 27, 2009**. The program, which is open to the public but space is limited, is scheduled to begin at 5:00 PM, with Senator Durbin entertaining questions until 6:00 PM.

Senator Durbin will be recognizing St. Elizabeth's Hospital on the completion of Phase Two of the hospital's Belleville Economic Stimulus program in which they have distributed almost \$100,000 to their employees through a two-step distribution plan. Phase One, completed in February, inspired St. Elizabeth's employees and volunteers to spend over \$85,000 with downtown Belleville merchants, leading Mayor Mark Eckert to decree a proclamation declaring a St. Elizabeth's Employees Appreciation Day in the city of Belleville. Phase Two was completed last week in which employees received cash in recognition of years of dedicated service to the organization.

“We are honored that Senator Durbin would take time to visit St. Elizabeth’s,” stated Kevin Shrake, President and CEO of St. Elizabeth’s Hospital. “He has been very influential in shaping the national economic recovery plan and we look forward to his insights.”

Senator Durbin will be coming off Sunday’s appearance on NBC’s weekly news chronicle “Meet the Press” during which he debated former House Speaker Newt Gingrich on the issue of President Obama’s National Security plan. Topics to be discussed during the Town Hall Meeting will include President Obama’s healthcare reform plan, and the nation’s economic recovery effort, among others.

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 Craig Steiner at 618.234.2120, extension 1357.

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