



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FRIENDS OF ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION RECEIVES TWO
DONATIONS TOTALING OVER \$100,000 FROM INDIVIDUAL DONORS**

Belleville – Two donations to the Friends of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, totaling over \$100,000, were accepted last week by St. Elizabeth's President and CEO Kevin Shrake as funding for new imaging equipment and a hand-carved "Fountain of Healing" sculpture.

Betty Renth and her brother W.E. Renth of New Baden, Illinois gave the donations. Betty Renth presented both checks during the daily administrative and management meeting on Thursday, November 5, 2009. She stated that St. Elizabeth's Hospital had saved her life twice and her brother's once and she was pleased to have the opportunity to present the donations to assist in the healing mission of St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

W.E. Renth donated in honor of his sister to purchase a Faxitron Bioptics Specimen Imaging System, which will benefit patients receiving breast biopsies. The state-of-the art imaging system provides an immediate bedside image of the breast biopsy taken during

surgery. The images are then sent to the Picture Archival Communication System (PACS) for analysis by a radiologist. The benefits to patients include a decreased amount of time spent in the actual operating room and faster diagnostic results.

The second donation from Betty Renth will be used to fund a new water sculpture in the Meditation Garden outside the hospital. "The Fountain of Healing" will provide a place for quiet reflection and relaxation for hospital patients, visitors and employees to enjoy the sensory sounds of falling water from the fountain.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital has commissioned internationally recognized artist, Vasilliki Antonakis for the design of the fountain and an additional sculpture to be displayed in the Southern Illinois Heart Institute Building. Work has started on both and is expected to be complete by November 30, 2009.

The second piece, "The Guardian Angel," will be on display in the lobby of the Southern Illinois Heart Institute Building. A five-foot block of stone was delivered at the beginning of October and is being transformed into the Angel, including an intricate feathered wing pattern on the Angel's back.

An unveiling ceremony of "The Guardian Angel" sculpture is planned for December 1, 2009, during the Festival of Trees at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Antonakis will be in attendance, as well as members of the hospital administration, to dedicate the completed work of art.

Check donation photo and headshot of W.E.Renth attached separately.

About the artist: Vasilliki Antonakis currently resides in Sparta, Greece, where she is an active sculptor and painter. She has degrees in studio art and art education from the

University of Concordia in Montreal, Canada. In addition to numerous solo exhibitions in Greece, Canada, and the United States, she has completed commissions for fountains and paintings in many public spaces in Greece. Recently, she had a solo exhibition of 36 works of art, paintings and sculptures at the Art on the Square Gallery in Belleville.

About Friends of St. Elizabeth's Hospital The Friends of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, a division of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization chartered in the State of Illinois and is exempt from income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to the Friends of St. Elizabeth's Hospital qualify as charitable contributions to the fullest extent of the current laws. Every gift is used in its entirety as directed by the donor for the benefit of the patients served by the hospital. For more information please contact Natalie Jablonski at 618.234.2120, extension 1289.

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