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KEVIN L. SHRAKE NAMED CEO AT ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL

BELLEVILLE, IL -- Kevin L. Shrake was named President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Elizabeth's Hospital today, a move that strengthens the on-going resurgence of one of the largest Catholic health care ministries in Southwestern Illinois.

For the last five months, Shrake has served as the Interim President and CEO of the 133-year-old hospital. His leadership during 2008 has done much to re-focus and revitalize the mission of St. Elizabeth's toward future growth and a more confident presence in the community.

"Kevin has done a fantastic job at St. Elizabeth's and this appointment is tangible proof of his strong commitment to furthering the ministry of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis and reinvigorating our commitment to the highest quality service for our patients and their families," said Stephanie S. McCutcheon, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hospital Sisters Health System, which sponsors St. Elizabeth's.

"I am truly humbled that the Hospital Sisters and the leadership of our System are placing their confidence in me at this point in the long history of St. Elizabeth's Hospital," Shrake said. "Observing the daily commitment of our staff at St. Elizabeth's to our core values of Respect, Care, Competence and Joy has been exciting and energizing. I am honored for

the opportunity to provide permanent leadership to this excellent organization which has served our community for over 133 years”

We are very pleased to have Kevin as President/CEO of St. Elizabeth’s,” said Dennis Bielke, Chairperson of St. Elizabeth’s Board of Directors. “During his role as interim CEO, Kevin demonstrated great skill in leading our talented team of staff, physicians and volunteers. We are confident that his vision of patient-centered, physician-led health care will serve the community extremely well, building upon St. Elizabeth’s history of excellence and compassionate care.”

Prior to joining St. Elizabeth’s, Shrake served as the first Administrator of Heart Services at St. Louis University Hospital. Beginning in 2006, Shrake was responsible for creating, developing and managing heart services at the 360-bed hospital.

Shrake also served as the Associate Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer for the Texas-based American Association for Respiratory Care. For three years he led daily operations of this national professional organization and helped increased membership from 29,000 to 40,000.

Previously, Shrake served as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the largest hospital in Oklahoma, Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and as an Administrator at St. John’s Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis. Prior to his experience in the St. Louis area, Shrake spent more than 20 years serving in various administrative capacities at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, Illinois, including eight years as the Administrator of the Heart Center at Memorial.

Shrake holds a Master’s Degree in Health Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of Illinois at Springfield.

The Hospital Sisters of St. Francis founded St. Elizabeth’s Hospital 133 years ago in a small schoolhouse in Belleville. Today, with more than 500 licensed beds and almost 1,600

employees, St. Elizabeth's is one of the oldest and largest healthcare providers in the Southwestern Illinois, offering specialized services unique to the community.

The Hospital Sisters Health System is a Roman Catholic health care mission founded to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Sponsored by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, HSHS is dedicated to serving all people, including the poor and the needy at each of its 13 Local Systems in Illinois and Wisconsin. The Hospital Sisters Health System provides state-of-the-art health care framed in traditional values taught by St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi.

With more than 14,300 staff, the HSHS hospitals in Wisconsin are located in Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire and Sheboygan, with two in Green Bay. In Illinois, the HSHS hospitals are located in Belleville, Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Highland, Litchfield, Springfield and Streator.

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