



RELEASE UPON RECEIPT
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**MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL FUND NEW
COMMUNICATIONS UPGRADES FOR AREA AMBULANCE SERVICES**

Memorial and St. Elizabeth's Hospitals – recognizing the key role EMS plays in our communities – have donated funds to several area ambulance services to purchase pre-hospital 12-lead electrocardiogram (ECG/EKG) equipment for early intervention in treating heart health issues, including acute myocardial infarction (AMI) as patients are in route to the hospitals.

The installation of this technology will allow paramedics in the Clinton, Monroe, Randolph and St. Clair Counties area the ability to send from the field more detailed patient diagnostic information directly through the care point systems in the emergency department to a computer screen where the ER doctor can read it, thus helping to expedite patients to procedures performed in the Cath lab.

“By placing this equipment in the field, ST elevations indicative of myocardial infarction may be interpreted earlier and this may provide an opportunity for earlier treatment of some patients,” said Mark Turner, Memorial's President and CEO. “The 12-lead field assessments rapidly are becoming the standard of cardiac evaluation allowing pre-hospital emergency medical services personnel to manage chest pain patients more effectively.”

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St. Elizabeth's and Memorial are donating nearly \$140,000 to help provide the Abbott, Dupo, O'Fallon, MedStar and Monroe County Ambulance Services funds to purchase this equipment.

"By working together, we're raising the bar for heart care in our community," said Tim Brady, chief executive of St. Elizabeth's Hospital. "This early intervention helps treat patients more effectively and increases understanding of the cardiac event to more accurately diagnose an AMI."

Funds raised through the Belleville Hospital Golf and Tennis Classic held this past June helped fund this program. This year's tournament marked the 23rd year for this event held to benefit Belleville's two hospitals.

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