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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RE: **ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL OPENS \$2 MILLION
HEART AND VASCULAR CENTER**

Belleville, IL -- A \$2 million, state-of-the-art Heart and Vascular Center opened May 1st at the Southern Illinois Heart Institute at St. Elizabeth's Hospital is the latest example of the great strides the hospital is making in its commitment to the people of southern Illinois.

The new Heart and Vascular Center, constructed within the last six months in the Southern Illinois Heart Institute building, reinforces St. Elizabeth's as the regional center for cardiac care in southern Illinois, and is one of the first health care centers in the Metro East area to join cardiology and vascular surgery in the same department.

"The Heart and Vascular Center offers the residents of southern Illinois the finest and most up-to-date technological advances in the field of cardiac and vascular medicine," said Timothy F. Brady, Chief Executive Officer of St. Elizabeth's

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Hospital. “We want to continue the positive momentum with the addition of new services that bring the finest in cardiac and vascular care to our patients.”

Dr. David Finlay, an interventional vascular surgeon, and other physicians of Vascular and Hand Surgery treat patients regularly at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital and will oversee the Heart and Vascular Center’s operations at the new center. While equipment at the new center is similar to that in the hospital’s catheterization laboratories, it is utilized differently.

“We are one of the first institutions in the St. Louis area successfully combining Endovascular and Cardiology procedure areas. We have our cardiologists and vascular surgeons attending to patients in the same physical area,” said Susan Beeler, RN, BSN, manager of the Heart and Vascular Center. This is important because more often than not patients that have Cardiovascular disease, also have some degree of Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD) in their arms, legs, groin, kidneys or aorta and visa versa. Having two subspecialties in the same physical area will allow for more collaboration between physicians which often equates to better outcomes for patients. “Our Cath Lab #1 is strictly for cardiology and our Cath Lab #2 is a swing lab where cardiologists and surgeons can perform peripheral cases.

“Our new Cath Lab #3 has a larger flat panel detector, allowing for larger field of view compared to the equipment in the other two labs,” added Beeler. “With the

new digital equipment we can see more of the smaller vessels than we saw with analog equipment. This means the more the physician can see, the more accurate the diagnosis and treatment plan. The new lab has the capability to construct a 3-D image of a diagnostic Cat Scan(CT) angiogram and/or Magnetic Resonance (MR) image angiogram, allowing the physicians more accurate image information and visualization. This is really futuristic image acquisition and manipulation technology. For example, you can have a CT of your heart or aorta, create a 3-D image model from those images that can rotate 360 degrees. From this we can see the inside and outside with a great degree of accuracy.” Beeler says that the cath lab staff at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital is cross-trained to rotate through the third lab (used for endovascular work).

Services and procedures provided at the new facility include cardiac angiography, peripheral angiography, implantation of pacemakers, implantation of internal cardiac defibrillators, coronary angioplasty, peripheral angioplasty, coronary stent placement, peripheral stent placement, electrophysiology studies and ablations.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital, in Belleville, IL, is an accredited Chest Pain Center and a 506-bed acute care medical facility featuring a newly renovated 16-suite surgery center including open-heart suites and an outpatient surgery center featuring 26 private rooms. The hospital was founded by the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. Today, we continue the mission of our founding sisters: to provide care for the sick and needy with a spirit of respect, care, competence and joy. We maintain a Gold Seal of approval from the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. For more information please contact Kelly Barbeau at 618.234.2120, extension 1270.