



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL RENOVATES HOSPICE SUITE  
THANKS TO FUNDS FROM THE FRIENDS**

*Belleville* - Located on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, the St. Elizabeth's Hospital Hospice Suite is reserved for patients who are experiencing end-of-life care in a hospital environment. It is a time when care is focused on maintaining the patient's dignity and comfort as well as preparing their family and friends for the inevitable moments of grief. The suite consists of a private patient room with an attached private living space that allows visitors to remain close to their loved one at all times – even overnight.

On September 20, Friends of St. Elizabeth's Hospital Board members, Teddy Bear Tea Party Committee members, and many members of the hospital Management Team gathered for a special ribbon cutting to re-open the Hospice Suite in celebration of the completed renovations, made possible by donations from the Friends of St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

In 2008, a long-time supporter of the Friends of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Sue Ellen Dumstorff, was inspired by the loss of a parent who utilized the hospice suite as well as a unique in-kind gift of specialty teddy bears that was donated to the Friends. This inspiration led her to design a new event called the Teddy Bear Tea Party. Proceeds from the first two years of this event were designated for the renovation of the Hospice Suite.

"Mrs. Dumstorff had a personal experience with our Hospice Suite," explained Natalie Jablonski, Director of Philanthropy. "Her vision was to renovate the Suite in order to nurture and comfort those who would endure a loss such as she had experienced."

During the summer of 2010, the Hospice Suite received a complete transformation. Renovations – including flooring, wall and window treatments, bathroom enhancements, furniture, flat-screen televisions, lighting, and closet space – have created a quiet, comfortable environment for the patient and their visitors. The Hospice Suite was re-introduced to St. Elizabeth's colleagues and friends in September where it received a blessing by Friends Board member Rev. James Thomas.

"These changes will definitely improve the patient and family experience," noted Sandy Sorenson, Director of Nursing. "I am so appreciative of everyone for supporting this project with their donations."

This year's Teddy Bear Tea Party will be held on Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds will support the Nora Helen Merrill Memorial Endowment, benefiting maternal child and youth-based community programs and healthcare services

provided by St. Elizabeth's Hospital. For more information on our Hospice Suite or the upcoming Teddy Bear Tea Party please contact the Friends of St. Elizabeth's Hospital at (618) 234-2120 ext. 1289 or [friends@sebh.org](mailto:friends@sebh.org).

*Photos available upon request.*

**About the Friends of St. Elizabeth's Hospital** - The Friends of St. Elizabeth's Hospital support the Hospital Sisters' mission of ministering to those in need of healthcare in response to God's call to serve each other, especially the poor. Thanks to the Friends of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, more than \$800,000 has been invested into hospital technology and programs in just the past two years, including the Picture Archival Communications System (PACS) and OB TraceVue™. 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.

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