CHRISTIANA CARE
HEALTH SYSTEM

Contact:
Hiran J. Ratnayake
Senior Communications Manager
(302) 327-3327
hratnayake@christianacare.org

Friends of the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center Mark 10 Year Anniversary with "Celebration of Hope" Gala

Christiana Care Health System Volunteer Group Raises $2 Million for Cancer Care and Research

(WILMINGTON, Del. – Oct. 4, 2013) The Friends of the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center, a group of more than 60 volunteers who support cancer programs at Christiana Care Health System's nationally recognized cancer center, mark 10 years of supporting patients with a special gala, "Celebration of Hope", from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5 at the Wilmington Country Club.

During the past decade, the Friends of the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center have worked to raise both funds and awareness for cancer programs that enhance the patient care experience, support cancer research and educate the public on the prevention, early detection and treatment of cancer. The Friends recently eclipsed $2 million in funds raised since the group's founding.

"We are all touched by cancer, either directly or indirectly, and we need to work together to support our loved ones who face this disease," said Penny Saridakis, Friends co-chair. "We are delighted to partner with the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center to continue to help patients access excellent care close to their homes."

Now in its 10th year of caring for patients with cancer, the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center & Research Institute has risen to national prominence not only for its patient-centered way of care, but also for its robust research and clinical trials programs. The Graham Cancer Center is one of only 21 cancer centers in the nation to earn distinction as a National Cancer Institute Community Cancer Center. Since 2003, the Graham Cancer Center has experienced more than 1.2 million patient visits.

Founded by Carroll Carpenter, chair of the Christiana Care Health System Trustees, the Friends work in cooperation with the clinical staff to advance hospital initiatives that benefit patients. Early on, the group raised money to buy a CyberKnife, a robotic radiosurgery system that delivers beams of high-dose radiation to tumors with extreme accuracy. The group also helped to fund its special needs fund, which helps patients with medication, transportation to and from appointments, supplies and nutrition counseling.

The Friends also support the Center for Translational Cancer Research at the Graham Cancer Center, where researchers are exploring innovative and effective ways to treat cancer. Established in 2004, the Center for Translational Cancer Research, seeks to quickly move bench research to the bedside by applying basic science discoveries to the development of therapies for cancer.

"The Friends of the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center have been invaluable to the cancer program," said Nicholas J. Petrelli, M.D., Bank of America endowed medical director of the Graham Cancer Center. "Without their support many of our programs and technologies would not have been possible. Their generous philanthropic efforts help our patients to receive cutting-edge, high-quality care."

About Christiana Care Health System

Christiana Care Health System is one of the country's largest health care providers, ranking as the 21st leading hospital in the nation and 11th on the East Coast in terms of admissions. A not-for-profit teaching hospital affiliated with Thomas Jefferson Medical College, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services, as well as for its Level-I trauma care and Level-3 neonatal intensive care (both highest capability). Christiana Care includes two hospitals with 1,100 patient beds, a home health care service, preventive medicine, rehabilitation services, a network of primary care physicians and an extensive range of outpatient services.

For more information about Christiana Care, visit www.christianacare.org/whoweare.

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