



**Immediate Release**

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**\$1 Million Gift from Trustee Rocco A. Abessinio and The Abessinio Family Foundation Supports Christiana Care's Wilmington Hospital Transformation Project**

(WILMINGTON, Del. – September 22, 2014) Christiana Care Health System today unveiled The Rocco A. Abessinio Family Wilmington Health Center at Wilmington Hospital. Christiana Care trustee Rocco A. Abessinio and his family are supporting the Wilmington Hospital Transformation Project, designed to advance patient- and family-centered care, with a \$1 million gift.

The redesigned and renovated health center was renamed in honor of the Abessinio Family: Mr. Rocco A. Abessinio; his wife, Mary; and adult children Mardee, Peter, Vincent, Joanne and their families.

“The Abessinio Family’s generous gift enables us to reimagine the health center in ways that will advance the well-being of our neighbors and our community for generations to come,” said Robert J. Laskowski, M.D., MBA, president and CEO of Christiana Care. “We are grateful to Mr. Abessinio for his long-standing dedication to Christiana Care and for the Abessinio Family’s partnership in improving the health of the neighbors we are privileged to serve.”

The Wilmington Hospital Health Center provides high-quality health care to patients, regardless of income or ability to pay, offering health education, illness prevention and health services including primary care, surgery, podiatry, ophthalmology, dentistry and oral and maxillofacial surgery.

“All families and communities deserve the excellence in health care that Wilmington Hospital and Christiana Care provide,” said Abessinio. “It is an honor for our family to support the expansion of this historic, community-focused hospital and health system.”

The Rocco A. Abessinio Family Wilmington Health Center continues the transformation of Christiana Care’s Wilmington campus.

The redesign and transformation of Christiana Care’s Wilmington Hospital began with construction in 2009. Improvements to Wilmington Hospital include:

- A new Main Lobby that provides a more accessible and welcoming entrance for patients and visitors.
- An expanded Emergency Department with state-of-the-science treatment rooms to handle

complex patient needs.

- An upgraded 30-bed unit for the Center for Advanced Joint Replacement.
- A new intensive care unit.
- 13 larger, technologically advanced operating rooms in the new surgical suite.

Upon completion of the project next spring, the redesigned Wilmington Hospital will have expanded by 337,000 square feet, creating a 1 million-square-foot, state-of-the-science facility including a 9-story tower, an Emergency Department double its current size and a café.

Throughout the construction, Christiana Care's Wilmington Hospital Campus has remained completely operational, providing full services and care to patients and their loved ones.

The Wilmington Hospital Campus has served the community for nearly 125 years, meeting the diverse medical needs of the city and surrounding region.

### **About Christiana Care Health System**

Christiana Care Health System is one of the country's largest health care providers, ranking as the 22nd leading hospital in the nation and 12th on the East Coast in terms of admissions. A not-for-profit teaching hospital affiliated with Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services. Christiana Care is home to Delaware's only Level I trauma center, the highest capability center and the only one of its kind between Philadelphia and Baltimore. Christiana Care also features a Level III neonatal intensive care unit, the only delivering hospital in Delaware that offers the highest level of non-surgical care to the most critically ill newborns. Christiana Care includes two hospitals with 1,100 patient beds, a home health care service, preventive medicine, rehabilitation services, and a network of primary care physicians and an extensive range of outpatient services.