

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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St. Mary's Hospital announces "Saints Flight" helicopter transport service

Streator, Ill. – St. Mary's Hospital has announced the addition of a dedicated helicopter transport service, *Saints Flight*, to be permanently stationed at St. Mary's helipad, offering immediate transport whenever service is needed.

St. Mary's will be the first hospital in the Illinois Valley to have their own helicopter and flight transport team, allowing for faster treatment of seriously ill and injured patients in the area. "St. Mary's understands that minutes matter in crucial emergency situations. The *Saints Flight* is an investment in saving time and potentially saving lives, and we are very proud to offer such a vital resource to the local community," said Joanne Fenton, President and CEO of St. Mary's Hospital.

When a call for service is made, a *Saints Flight* transport team typically takes off from St. Mary's helipad in under seven minutes. With a cruise speed of 130-150 m.p.h., *Saints Flight* can quickly arrive at an area hospital or accident scene and provide the most immediate care during any emergency situation.

ARCH Air Medical Services (owned by Air Methods) will provide the helicopter, pilots and medical transport teams. On-board each *Saints Flight* are highly trained professionals, with pilots being required to have a minimum of 2,500 flight hours, including 500 hours flying at night. Adult transport teams consist of a registered nurse and paramedic, each with at least five years of specialized training in caring for critically ill and injured patients.

"Air Methods is proactive when it comes to patient and crew safety," said Dave Fails, Aviation Manager at ARCH Medical Services. "We incorporate extra regulations when it comes to flight condition, including requiring that there be at least two miles of visibility for flight made during the day."

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Saints Fight, a BK117 dual engine aircraft helicopter constructed by American Eurocopter, is part of a medical air transport operated by ARCH. The twin-engine aircraft has proved to be one of the safest and most reliable in the industry. The network has helicopters based across central and southern Illinois in Granite City, Sprat, Litchfield, Effingham and Urbana.

About St. Mary's Hospital

St. Mary's Hospital is a regional leader in providing superior health care to families throughout central Illinois. A member of the Hospital Sisters Health System, the hospital was founded in 1887 with a mission to heal members of the community with Respect, Care, Competence and Joy. St. Mary's Hospital offers state-of-the-art care and a wide range of physician specialists. For more information on St. Mary's Hospital, visit www.stmaryshospital.org.

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