May 31, 2006

ST. FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER HOLDS ANNUAL SPRING GALA

With nearly 400 guests in attendance, the St. Francis Medical Center Foundation held its 43rd annual spring gala at the Hyatt-Regency-Princeton.

The prestigious "Spirit of St. Francis" award was presented to Mr. William A. Watson of Trenton, in honor of his unwavering commitment to the healthcare needs of the poor and underserved as reflected in his continued involvement with the medical center.

The award was presented to Mr. Watson by Gerard J. Jablonowski, President and CEO of the hospital; Majority Leader and sister of the honoree, Bonnie Watson-Coleman; Judith M. Persichilli, Executive Vice President of Catholic Health East Northeast Division; James F. Bishop, Foundation Chair; and Paul R. Langevin, Chairman of the Hospital Board of Trustees.

According to Jablonoski, "We are proud to call Bill Watson both a friend and an advocate in being a healing presence in our community.

The theme of the gala was "Experience The Derby" and guests danced to the music of The Cutting Edge. A musical video recapped the events of the past year of St. Francis Medical Center, and another video captured the spirit that connected Bill Watson with his life's work that embodies the motto of St. Francis of Assisi, "That is in giving that we receive."

Co-chairs of the dinner dance were Mr. and Mrs. James F. Bishop, Mr and Mrs. Paul R. Langevin, The Honorable and Mrs. Wendell Pribila of Ewing, and Dr. and Mrs. C. James Romano. The Honorary Co-chairs of the event were Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes, and Mayor of Trenton, Doug Palmer. The gala netted $135,000 to benefit St. Francis Medical Center services including Fox Chase Center at St. Francis Medical Center, full service Cardiac Program and Community Outreach Programs.