ST. FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER HOLDS ANNUAL SPRING GALA



With over 300 guests in attendance, the St. Francis Medical Center Foundation held its 44th annual spring gala at the Hyatt Regency-Princeton on Saturday. June 9, 2007.

The prestigious "Spirit of St. Francis" award was presented to Barbara
Draper of Hamilton, in honor of her true compassion for the healthcare
needs of the poor and underserved as reflected in her history with
the medical center. Barbara began her career at St. Francis in 1959
as a candy striper and retired last December as Vice President of
Mission and Ministry.

The award was presented to Barbara Draper, center, (I. to r.) Gerard
J. Jablonowski, president and CEO of the hospital; Jim Bishop, Chairman
St. Francis Foundation Board of Trustees; Paul R. Langevin, Chairman
of the Hospital Board of Trustees; and Judith M. Persichilli, Executive
Vice President, Catholic Health East Northeast Division.

According to Jablonoski, "We are very proud to present Barbara
Draper with this honor. Throughout her tenure here at St. Francis,
Barbara has made many contributions to our facility and the
communitites we serve."

Barbara has had many varied job descritions including ER staff nurse, student clinical instructor, and Vice President of Mission and Ministry. As Director of Women's Health Services from 1986 to 1995, Barbara led the crusade to offer affordable mammography to all women in all walks of life. Barbara has spear-headed educational classes for self-breast exams, osteoporosis and menopause. Barbara was also a pivotal force in the establishment of the Heart Hospital in 1998.

The theme of the gala was "Cruise Around the World" and guests danced to the music of the 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 Barbara Draper with her life's work that embodies the motto of St. Francis of Assisi, "That is in giving that we receive."