

## ST. FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER LAUNCHES NEW LIFE PROGRAM



*Trenton, NJ* – St. Francis Medical Center in Trenton recently launched **LIFE**, or Living Independently For Elders, a new, community-based long-term care model. **LIFE** is a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, known nationally as **PACE** and is the first program of its kind in New Jersey.

On Monday, June 22, LIFE St. Francis held a Dedication and Blessing. Bishop John M. Smith and Congressman Chris Smith were among those present.

“ I applaud you for taking this great step forward to serve our community. This facility and people who work here will be serving our elderly and their families. I am proud to be a part of your celebration today and honored to bless this facility and this professional staff,” says Bishop Smith.

LIFE serves frail seniors throughout Greater Mercer County, enabling them to receive comprehensive health care while remaining in the comfort of their home and community. This program offers an alternative to nursing home placement.

“Each **LIFE** enrollee will receive customized care that is planned and delivered by a coordinated, interdisciplinary team. A participant’s care plan usually integrates some home care services from the team with several visits each week to the **LIFE** Center, which serves as the hub for medical care, rehabilitation, social activities and dining,” says Jerry Jablonowski, president and CEO of St. Francis. “**LIFE** will provide a new level of care to our area’s seniors.”

In order to participate in **LIFE**, enrollees must be at least 55 or older; certified by the state to need nursing home care; able to live safely in the community at the time of enrollment; and live in Mercer County or in Bordentown, Roebling or Florence in Burlington County.

The LIFE Center is located at 1435 Liberty Street on the border of Trenton in Hamilton, NJ. **LIFE** St. Francis was developed in part with a grant from the NJ Health Initiatives Program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

For services to be covered, participants must follow the care plan approved by the care team. Participants may be liable for unauthorized services.