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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hospice of Cincinnati Receives 2011 Innovative Solutions Award

The Christ Hospital Earns Honorable Mention Recognition

Hospice of Cincinnati is the 2011 recipient of the Greater Cincinnati Health Council's sixth annual Innovative Solutions Award, created to celebrate unique approaches to clinical or non-clinical health care process improvements, patient care initiatives, or innovative change projects. The award is sponsored by SANOFI and was presented to the winning team at the Health Council's recent Solutions in Quality and Patient Safety event.

This year, the Health Council partnered with the American Society for Quality (ASQ) to present the award. ASQ is the world's largest membership organization devoted to quality, including health care.

Hospice of Cincinnati won for its project to improve diversity outreach in hospice care. Through the work of the Hospice of Cincinnati Diversity Outreach Initiative, hospice care information is more readily available to all minority groups. As part of the project, cultural diversity training was provided, and cultural consideration sheets for various groups (such as Latinos, Muslims, Asians and others) were developed and made available to all staff to ensure that the care provided is respectful of the many cultural preferences and beliefs found in this region's diverse community. Access to hospice care has increased for minorities; for example, Hospice of Cincinnati had a 43 percent increase in hospice patient days among African American patients as a direct result of the Diversity Outreach Initiative.

In addition, The Christ Hospital received Honorable Mention recognition for its project to ease the burden of serious illness in its palliative care department. Palliative care supports the Patient and Family-Centered Model of Care utilized by The Christ Hospital by attending to the body, mind, and spirit of people struggling with serious illnesses and assuring that the medical care provided aligns with a patient's and family's wishes, values and beliefs.

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A total of nine health care projects from six hospitals were submitted by area health care organizations and were under consideration for the award. The total nominees:

- Atrium Medical Center – Emergency Trauma Center/Laboratory Collaboration of Specimen Management
- The Christ Hospital – Inpatient Palliative Care Consult Service
- The Christ Hospital – Outpatient Lactation Program
- Good Samaritan Hospital – Readmission Risk Assessment and Intervention Algorithm
- Good Samaritan Hospital – Zero in on Zero (Improving Joint Replacement Outcomes)
- Hospice of Cincinnati – Diversity Outreach Initiative
- The Jewish Hospital - Mercy Health – The Clostridium difficile (Cdiff) Project
- St. Elizabeth Healthcare – Fall Reduction Program
- St. Elizabeth Healthcare – Total Care Plan

Submitted projects were evaluated on a multitude of criteria, including project purpose, improvement opportunities, methodology, results, goal attainment, sustainability of innovation and the ability to replicate the project in other health care settings.

This is the first time a non-hospital Council member has received this award. As winner, Hospice of Cincinnati will also receive a complimentary Failure Mode Effects Analysis (FMEA) – a \$5,000 value – from Johnson Consulting Services, LLC. An FMEA is an analytical process for identifying all possible failures in a design, process or service. The results can then be fed into a continuous quality improvement process to reduce the probability of errors or mitigate their impact.

To learn more about the Innovative Solutions Award and each nominated project, visit the Health Council's website at <http://www.gchc.org>.

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The Greater Cincinnati Health Council is a widely recognized association that provides a unique forum where hospital and health care leaders connect to create a stronger health care community. For more than 50 years, the Council has served as a trusted voice on hospital and health care issues for the Tristate region.