

NEWS RELEASE



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Bon Secours Unveils Master Plan for St. Francis *Hospital campus, with town center, envisioned for future generations*

Richmond, VA (Jan. 19, 2009) – Bon Secours Richmond Health System (www.bonsecours.com) unveiled a comprehensive master site plan for future development of St. Francis Medical Center to a group of more than 100 Bon Secours employees, Chesterfield County civic leaders, architects, planners and community decision makers during a one-week intensive planning session.

The planning for a healthy St. Francis community campus is known as a Charrette – a holistic, community consensus building process involving all disciplines, from architects and community planners to historians and neighborhood advocates, who share a commitment to building a feasible plan to support the vision of the medical campus.

“Everyone worked incredibly hard this week, and our collaboration has enabled us to produce an incredible product,” said Peter J. Bernard, senior vice president and CEO of Bon Secours Virginia. “The site plan supports our main goals of environmental responsibility, social integration and economic sustainability. Everything has been designed to uphold our mission of healing, spirituality and nature, and it is demonstrated in a very tasteful way.”

The Bon Secours Charrette was led by Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, dean of the University of Miami School of Architecture and a founding principal of Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company, internationally known as a leading proponent of traditional town planning and New Urbanism.

A variety of stakeholders met with the Charrette team to help process two basic goals: to develop an ideal design for the future campus of St. Francis that would embody the Bon Secours mission of spirituality, healing and nature; and to demonstrate community building as a means of attracting additional economic development to the local area.

“The Charrette gave us a unique opportunity to bring everyone to the table, in an effort to recapture the original beauty of Midlothian,” said Bernard. “This plan has the ability to secure the future of this community, both within our campus and throughout the surrounding area. Working together, we have created a legacy for St. Francis as a destination for employees, students, residents and visitors for many years to come.”

With a focus on two critical areas – transportation and environmental concerns – the community plan shows detailed placement and design of future buildings on the St. Francis campus. The layouts of buildings and of streets are done according to the 175-acre site topography, allowing for best conservation of the area’s streams and wetlands.

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It encompasses five important principles of good neighborhood design: encompassing a center and an edge; key services and buildings within a quarter-mile radius and a five-minute walk; a mix of uses, from hospital and medical services to residences and retail conveniences; a street network for pedestrian comfort; and focal civic places, including churches and schools.

The plan for St. Francis includes expansion of the existing hospital, as well as additional medical office buildings, placement of non-medical buildings, including multi-family residential buildings, a hotel site, retail space and a place of worship, surface and structured parking, to be hidden from view with architecturally pleasing buildings and walkways, a defined network of streets, with alleys, for residential buildings and defined green space protecting the streams and wetlands that flow through the site.

“We look at this process as a productive ‘round one’ in the planning process for the St. Francis community,” said Bernard. “We want to ensure that this plan works for the community as well as Bon Secours and we look forward to working together to make Midlothian the best it can be.”

The plan also identifies a Town Center on the site, which will include a hotel site with a small residential apartment building, a walking path that will flow through beautifully landscaped, open space.

Bon Secours will continue to refine the master plan for the next 30 to 45 days. In the meantime, Bon Secours will proceed on its approved Phase I development, which calls for 200,000 square feet of hospital expansion, additional medical office buildings, and parking that soon will be under construction.

“We’re working with county officials and consultants to determine the next steps to turn this plan into reality,” said Mark Gordon, executive vice president and administrator of St. Francis Medical Center. “We want St. Francis to be not just a hospital, but a destination.”

St. Francis Medical Center is one of four Bon Secours Richmond Hospitals. Others include St. Mary’s, Memorial Regional Medical Center and Richmond Community Hospital. In addition Bon Secours Physicians is comprised of more than 38 medical practices, home health services, assisted living and Hospice.

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