

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. MARY'S MEDICAL CENTER TO RECEIVE

GIFT OF "DREAM PACKS"

Packs will be distributed to pediatric patients

WEST PALM BEACH, FL - Pediatric patients at St. Mary's Medical Center will be given another tool to cope with their illness and inspire them. The hospital is pleased to announce its participation in the Dream Pack program of Dreammakers for Life. On Friday August 20, 2010 at 2pm, Dreammakers for Life, Inc., will donate its dream-inspiring Dream Packs to the Parent-Child Center's Child Life Program division for distribution at no cost to patients or their families. The Dream Pack features a cartoon character named "Dreamer" who inspires children with serious or terminal illnesses to dream beyond their challenges and answer basic questions, such as, "Who do you want to be when you grow up?," which is a simple, yet challenging question for children facing difficult diagnoses.

"Our therapists and Child Life Specialists who work for our program, encourage the expression of feelings, as children and families who are striving to adjust to the many challenges associated with a life-threatening or life-limiting medical conditions. We support their strengths and coping abilities," said David Tkac, Parent-Child Center's Child Life coordinator with The Children's Hospital at St. Mary's Medical Center. "This approach respects the integrity of each family and their significance as the primary support for their child."

This is the founding principle of the local non-profit organization that developed the Dream Pack. Dreammakers for Life, Inc., founded by a mother-daughter team, has been building its program for 10 years with the goal that some day Dream Packs will be available to every child battling a serious and terminal illness. "We encourage children to dream of a future abundant in hope," said Jan Morgan Rogers, co-founder of Dreammakers for Life, Inc. "That is our mission."

The Dream Pack is made up of an illustrated dry-erase activity book for the child and journal for the parent packaged in a backpack, which makes it easy to tote to a hospital or treatment center.

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About St. Mary's Medical Center

St. Mary's Medical Center is a 463-bed acute care hospital located at 901 45th Street in West Palm Beach. The hospital has been serving the medical and health care needs of the greater West Palm Beach area for more than 70 years. St. Mary's Medical Center offers a broad array of services, including medical, surgical, obstetrics, pediatrics, orthopedics, trauma and emergency services. St. Mary's specialty services include a pediatric trauma center, 24-hour children's emergency department, pediatric intensive care unit, comprehensive stroke center, high-risk obstetrical unit, Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Children's Hospital at St. Mary's, the Rehabilitation Institute, and the Memory Disorders Center. St. Mary's Medical Center is fully accredited by the Joint Commission, the nation's oldest and largest hospital accreditation agency.

To learn more about St. Mary's Medical Center, visit www.stmarysmc.com or call 561-844-6300

The Parent-Child Center's Child Life Program is funded through the generosity of the Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation and the Be A Star Foundation.