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For Immediate Release:

Blackford Community Hospital growing as valuable local asset

Blackford Community Hospital has been serving the community from its new facility for more than three years. One word can summarize the first three years for BCH in its new home.

Growth.

“We have seen growth in nearly every area of the hospital in terms of services provided,” said Steve West, President and CEO, Blackford Community Hospital. “Support from Cardinal Health System has allowed us to expand the types of services we offer and to increase our capacity to serve in other areas where there was a demand.”

One example of that growth can be found in the Sleep Lab. The Sleep Lab opened at BCH in March of 2006. In the first six months, the Sleep Lab saw approximately 40 patients. Today the Sleep Lab has been opened at BCH for two years and in the last six months, more than 80 patients have been seen. The Sleep Lab at BCH specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of sleep disorders. Patients typically are monitored throughout the evening with sensors that evaluate 16 different body functions. The rooms are fit with room darkening shades, individual temperature controls and noise reduction barriers to encourage sleep.

But the growth of services isn't limited to just the Sleep Lab. Overall since July of 2007, the inpatient volume at BCH is up 13 percent. Outpatient volume has seen similar increases as well, while outpatient surgeries have increase 50 percent from the same point last year. West credits the physicians and employees with making BCH the best it can be.

“People are beginning to discover that they don't have to get in the car and drive across the state to receive top quality healthcare,” he said. “Why drive one or two hours when you can receive the same level of quality tests and physician care just minutes from your home?”

Through its specialty clinic, BCH offers the community access to care and treatment from highly qualified, board certified physicians in more than 15 different specialties.

In the last year, BCH began offering a Pain Clinic through the specialty clinic, located in the hospital offering medical and interventional pain management. These services are tailored to individual needs and include initial evaluation and treatment of a variety of pain syndromes.

The 45,000 square foot Blackford Community Hospital has built to meet the changing healthcare needs of the community. Since its opening in 2005, BCH has expanded existing services and brought new services to the area to make it easier for those in the community to receive quality healthcare without a long drive. Patients can look forward to continued growth and advancement in the coming years and know that when they are in need, BCH will be there to provide access to quality healthcare.

About Cardinal Health System (CHS)

Cardinal Health System is a regional integrated network providing a full range of health services to the people of East Central Indiana. The major components of the system are Ball Memorial Hospital and Cardinal Health Ventures, which includes Cardinal Health Partners, Midwest HealthStrategies and various joint ventures. Kelly N. Stanley is President and CEO of Cardinal Health System.

About Blackford Community Hospital (BCH)

Blackford Community Hospital is a 15-bed facility designated by Medicare as a Critical Access Hospital. Blackford Community Hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission. Steve West is President and CEO of Blackford Community Hospital.

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