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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Mount Carmel College of Nursing and Fairfield Medical Center Establish Partnership to offer Nursing Program

New program set to begin August 2008

Lancaster, Ohio....Mount Carmel College of Nursing (MCCN) and Fairfield Medical Center (FMC) have entered into a collaborative partnership to offer the MCCN nursing program to students in the Lancaster and surrounding areas beginning in August 2008.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to work collaboratively with Fairfield Medical Center to meet the community need for baccalaureate prepared nurses," says Ann Schiele, PhD, RN, President and Dean, MCCN.

"Additionally, this partnership to provide nursing education is a natural extension of our shared mission and commitment to quality healthcare and academic excellence."

Twenty-four eligible students will be accepted into the first program. Students will take their general education classes during the first year at the Ohio University-Lancaster campus and complete the second through fourth year at Mount Carmel College of Nursing at Fairfield Medical Center. Those courses will include nursing theory, clinical, science, and specialty education. Students who successfully complete the nursing program will be awarded a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from MCCN.

"Faced with an unprecedented nursing shortage nationally as well as locally, our new program will provide a great opportunity to recruit and retain the best and brightest of baccalaureate prepared nurses," explains Cynthia

Pearsall, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at FMC. "This will ensure the continued success of Fairfield Medical Center. Mount Carmel College of Nursing has an outstanding reputation and program---we are pleased to be a partner with them in this initiative." The new program is awaiting final approval by the Ohio Board of Nursing which is anticipated within the next few weeks.

According to Dr. Schiele, the MCCN-FMC collaboration presents a win-win situation for both institutions. "Each of our establishments has very high standards. The agreement benefits FMC because it's a cost-effective way to offer a nursing program within their service area and graduates will hopefully remain in the Lancaster area upon program completion; it benefits Mount Carmel because we know that students recruited to this program will have demonstrated an unparalleled desire for a career in nursing," she adds. Next to Franklin County, Fairfield County has the largest student enrollment yield for MCCN.

"This agreement represents the very best in healthcare and in nursing education," says Mina Ubbing, President and CEO at Fairfield Medical Center. "You have collaboration between two great institutions working together, with a common goal to serve the needs of people in our community and surrounding communities."

An informational open house will be held on Wednesday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. at Fairfield Medical Center in the Assembly Rooms. Reservations are recommended by calling 1-800-225-0581. For more information about the nursing program call MCCN Admissions at 614-234-4CON, or visit the website at www.mccn.edu.

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ABOUT FAIRFIELD MEDICAL CENTER

Fairfield Medical Center located in Lancaster, Ohio, was established in 1916 and has continued to grow since then to become the modern, not-for-profit healthcare system it is today. Fairfield Medical Center is a 222-bed general acute care facility dedicated to being the major referral center that serves the healthcare needs of southeastern and central Ohio region. The Center is represented by more than 2000 employees, over 600 volunteers and Twig members and a growing team of over 250 physicians who all work together to ensure Fairfield Medical Center's continuing success in meeting the healthcare needs of our residents. To enhance upon its delivery of healthcare to the various communities it serves, Fairfield Medical Center has established affiliates and off-campus locations to allow for greater accessibility and enhanced services.

ABOUT MOUNT CARMEL COLLEGE OF NURSING

Mount Carmel is a fully accredited, specialized institution of higher education, offering the following programs: Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Master of Science (MS) in Adult Health, Nursing Administration and Nursing Education, a Dietetic Internship and an Online RN Refresher Course. Mount Carmel has one of the largest baccalaureate nursing programs in the State of Ohio and in the US. Founded in 1903 by the Sisters of the Holy Cross, the main College campus is located at 127 South Davis Avenue in Columbus, on the campus of Mount Carmel West Hospital. The College is affiliated with the Mount Carmel Health System.