



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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St. Mary Medical Center Receives Grant to Help Victims of Domestic Violence
The Verizon Foundation awarded \$24,500 to screen for domestic abuse.

LANGHORNE, Pa., March 3, 2008 – St. Mary Medical Center today announced that it has received a generous \$24,500 grant from the Verizon Foundation to enhance its capabilities to screen for victims of domestic abuse and violence. The grant will be used to make updates to existing software to automate the domestic-abuse screening process. A manual system currently is used and while it is effective in offering this screening to about 80 percent of those eligible, the goal is to automate the process to ensure screening of 100 percent of all adults over age 18 as well as teenagers who date. These software enhancements will allow domestic abuse and violence to be more easily detected, while offering more support to consenting victims. The program also enhances the capabilities for healthcare workers to more readily provide information on county resources, including legal services, hotline numbers, shelter locations, and counseling options for victims.

According to the American Institute of Domestic Violence, 5.3 million women are abused and more than 1,200 women are killed by an intimate partner each year. Further, research has shown that many victims of domestic abuse and violence will not disclose abuse unless they are directly asked or screened for domestic violence by a physician or nurse. These statistics reveal the urgent need for the diligent screening of patients.

Domestic violence screening is a priority at St. Mary Medical Center and the hospital has partnered with A Woman's Place, the only domestic violence agency in Bucks County to address the needs of victims. The new automated system made possible through this Verizon grant will help St. Mary ensure that no potential victim is overlooked.

To speak with a domestic violence counselor at St. Mary, please call 215-710-6082.

Photo Caption:

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About St. Mary Medical Center

St. Mary Medical Center in Langhorne, PA, the most comprehensive medical center in the area, is celebrating 35 years of caring for our community. Its compassionate staff of more than 600 physicians, 2,400 colleagues, and 700 volunteers is committed to providing excellence in patient safety and quality care. St. Mary offers state-of-the-art technology and highly skilled physicians and clinical professionals in providing advanced care for complex cases. Services include a comprehensive cardiovascular program; the only state-accredited Trauma Center in Bucks County; Emergency Services with a dedicated Pediatric Emergency Care Center; a Joint Commission-certified Primary Stroke Center; specialized diagnostic imaging; obstetrics; a Joint Commission-certified joint replacement program; exceptional orthopedic surgical capabilities and rehabilitation; sleep disorders, pain management, and wound healing centers; the St. Mary Breast Center; and the St. Mary Regional Cancer Center.

About Verizon Foundation

The Verizon Foundation is committed to improving literacy and K-12 education; fostering awareness and prevention of domestic violence; and promoting the use of technology in health-care delivery. In 2007, the foundation awarded \$67.4 million in grants to nonprofit agencies in the United States and abroad. Under the foundation's Verizon Volunteer initiative, one of the nation's largest employee-volunteer programs, company employees and retirees have also contributed nearly 3 million hours of community service since Verizon's inception in 2000.