



For Immediate Release

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**Christiana Care earns Consumer Choice Award
as the top hospital in the Delaware region**
Achievement marks 11th consecutive success

Wilmington, DE (Dec. 7, 2006) -- Christiana Care earned the Consumer Choice Award as the top hospital in the Delaware region by the National Research Corporation (NRC). The award is given to the hospitals consumers choose as having the highest quality and image in more than 150 markets throughout the United States. This is the eleventh year NRC has issued the awards and Christiana Care has won it each time.

"It is tremendously gratifying that our nurses and doctors are recognized by our neighbors in the community for all that they do," says Bob Laskowski, M.D., Christiana Care's president and CEO. "The Consumer Choice Award reflects their deep commitment to high quality health care and their constant caring and compassion for our patients. It is very gratifying to be known as their health care provider of choice."

Winners are determined by consumer perceptions on multiple quality and image ratings in NRC's Healthcare Market Guide study. Of the 3,200 hospitals named by consumers in the study, the winning facilities rank highest in their metropolitan areas, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. The 2006/2007 study surveyed more than 200,000 households representing 400,000 consumers in the contiguous 48 states and the District of Columbia.

[photo available]

Christiana Care Health System, which dates back to 1888, is one of the region's largest not-for profit health care providers, serving the people of Delaware as well as neighboring areas of Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. A teaching hospital, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services, as well as Level-I trauma care and Level-3 neonatal intensive care (both highest intensity). Christiana Care operates two hospitals, transitional care services, preventive medicine and rehabilitation services, a network of primary care physician offices and an extensive range of outpatient and home health services. Christiana Care provided \$ 25.2 million of charity care last year.