



A Breath of Fresh Air: Baptist Health Care is Now Smoke-Free

PENSACOLA, Fla. (Nov. 19, 2009) – Baptist Health Care implemented its expanded smoke-free campus plan today, in conjunction with the *Great American Smoke-Out*. Baptist Health Care is now smoke-free - indoors and outdoors.

“Baptist Health Care strives to serve as a source of health, healing and education for our community,” said Al Stubblefield, president and CEO, Baptist Health Care. “The implementation of a campus-wide smoke-free policy is the right thing to do for our patients, their families, employees and community.”

Baptist Health Care joins 1,800 hospitals nationwide that have already gone smoke-free. A smoke-free campus plan promotes a safer, healthier environment and ensures patients, families, employees and community members are not exposed to the harmful effects of smoking while on any Baptist Health Care campus.

Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cite tobacco as the leading preventable cause of death and disability in the United States. An estimated 443,000 people die prematurely from smoking or exposure to secondhand smoke each year.

Among the reasons for adopting a campus-wide smoke-free policy, smoking and second-hand smoke:

- Have the potential to slow and/or inhibit treatment.
- Are known causes of many illnesses.
- Are inconsistent with a Mission of healing.

“We are committed not only to healing illness, but also promoting wellness,” said Stubblefield. “As our community looks to us to guide the future of their health care, we must focus on preventing diseases. Driven by our Mission, Baptist Health Care strives to improve the quality of life for communities served and the highest quality care every day for every patient.”

For more information, community resources and smoking cessation information, visit BHCgoessmokefree.org.