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ELMHURST HOSPITAL CENTER ONE OF ONLY 11 MEDICAL FACILITIES IN THE GREATER NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA TO RECEIVE MEDAL OF HONOR FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Distinction reserved for hospitals with organ donation rates of 75% and above

(Elmhurst, NY – February 19, 2009): On Friday, February 6, the New York Organ Donor Network awarded Elmhurst Hospital Center the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Medal of Honor for substantially raising organ donation rates of eligible donors from its facility. The award was accepted by Dr. Jasmin Moshirpur, Regional Medical Director of the Queens Health Network, and Elmhurst Hospital Center Executive Director Chris Constantino.

Elmhurst Hospital Center is one of 402 hospitals nationwide and one of only eleven regionally with eight or more potential donors that met eligibility criteria for achieving and sustaining an organ donation rate of 75 percent or higher for any 12-month period between August 2006 and May 2008. There are more than 100 hospitals in the greater New York metropolitan area and approximately 3,000 hospitals throughout the United States. From February 2007 through May 2008, Elmhurst's donation rate ranged from 88 to 91 percent.

In her congratulatory letter to executives to each hospital that received the HHS Medal of Honor, HHS administrator Elizabeth M. Duke wrote: "As a nation, we are fortunate to have active and successful organ donation programs such as yours and I thank and recognize the many nurses, physicians, administrators, chaplains, social workers and others who work to ensure that the organ donation process works smoothly and the gift of life given by organ donors and donor families is honored. Your hospital has served a critical role in ensuring that thousands of people with end-stage organ failure have the opportunity to receive a second chance at life."

During the presentation of the award to Elmhurst Hospital Center, Elaine Berg, New York Organ Donor Network president and CEO, said: "We congratulate and thank the staff of Elmhurst Hospital Center. They have set an example for the entire region and my hope is that as role models they will inspire all of the other medical facilities to aspire to these ambitious but nevertheless realizable goals."

Berg also noted that there are now more than 100,000 patients waiting for organ transplants in the U.S. and that "the number of patients awaiting organ transplants in the greater New York metropolitan area exceeds 8,000. Each day, an average of 18 people die because of the dire organ shortage and a new name is added to the waiting list every 13 minutes."

By enrolling in the New York State Donate Life Registry, Berg said, "New Yorkers can make certain that their decision to be a donor, should they be eligible, will be legally binding." To learn

more about organ, eye and tissue donation, and to enroll in the New York State Donate Life Registry, visit the Web site of the New York Organ Donor Network at www.donatelifeny.org.

About Elmhurst Hospital

Elmhurst Hospital Center is a member of New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation and the Queens Health Network. It is affiliated with the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

About the New York Organ Donor Network

Founded in 1978, the New York Organ Donor Network is the second largest of the nation's 58 nonprofit, federally designated organ procurement organizations (OPOs). The Donor Network is responsible for the recovery of organs, eyes and tissues for transplantation, and public and professional education efforts in the greater New York metropolitan area. It serves a highly diverse population in Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, the Bronx, Staten Island, Long Island, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester and Pike County, PA. The Donor Network partners with 10 transplant centers, more than 100 hospitals, as well as several eye and tissue banks. The agency is fully accredited by the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO). It is a member of the United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS).