



For Immediate Release

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Benedictine Hospital Receives \$1.2 Million Gift

Kingston, N.Y., – Dec. 9, 2009 – The Benedictine Health Foundation was recently the recipient of a \$1.2 million gift from the estate of Raymond A. Rich to support the healthcare programs and services of Benedictine Hospital. Mr. Rich was a major industrialist and business leader who passed away June 19, 2009, at the age of 97. In addition to his primary residence in Boca Grande, Fla., Mr. Rich owned the "Payne Mansion," also known as "Omega" and "Wiltwick," a 60-acre riverfront estate in Esopus, N.Y.

"Mr. Rich was a generous supporter and true friend of Benedictine Hospital with a tremendous respect and admiration of the thoughtful care given by the staff," said Sister Mary Feehan, O.S.B., Vice President of Mission Effectiveness for Benedictine Hospital. "He had a strong interest in insuring that the Hospital was a leader in medical technology, and made significant contributions toward the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment over the years. Mr. Rich was a kind and compassionate man. In addition to his love for the Hospital and technology, each year he purchased turkeys to fill our Christmas Baskets which are distributed to local families in need during the holiday season. He will be missed by all of us at Benedictine."

Raymond A. Rich was born in Los Angeles, Calif. in 1912, and was raised in Des Moines, IA. After receiving a double engineering degree from Iowa State University, he was hired in the midst of the Great Depression by General Electric Co. and became its youngest national sales manager at that time. He was awarded the rare "E Award" for overseeing GE's multiple war production plant facilities.

Mr. Rich lead the federal Northeast District for the Council for Economic Development. He volunteered for active duty in World War II in the Navy and Marines and received numerous decorations for his distinguished service. After the war, Mr. Rich became Vice President and Director of Philco Corp. and then accepted the Presidency and Directorship of Avco Corp. From there his career escalated, and he went on to hold multiple, simultaneous CEO and Chairman positions in numerous companies ranging from oil and gas exploration and production, publishing, glass containers, and banking, to environmental engineering and production facilities.

The Benedictine Health Foundation supports the healthcare programs, services, and facilities of Benedictine Hospital. For further information, contact Barbara Klassen, Executive Director at (845) 334-3186.

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