Based on Allentown and Bethlehem, Pa., Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network (LVHHN) comprises Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH) -- Cedar Crest & I-78, Lehigh Valley Hospital -- 17th & Chew, Lehigh Valley Hospital -- Muhlenberg (LVH - Muhlenberg), Lehigh Valley Health Services, the 370-member Lehigh Valley Physician Group (LVPG) and community health centers located in Bath, Bethlehem Township, Hamburg, Hellertown, Kutztown, Saucon Valley and Trexlertown.

LVH, which began as Allentown Hospital in 1899, is one of the largest and oldest licensed teaching hospitals in Pennsylvania. It is one of only 400 members of the prestigious Council of Teaching Hospitals and a chief clinical campus of the Penn State University College of Medicine, Hershey.

LVHHN is currently training 195 residents in 18 residency and fellowship programs including general practice dentistry, family medicine, internal medicine, ob/gyn, general surgery, colon-rectal surgery, trauma/surgical critical care, plastic surgery, minimally invasive surgery, transitional medicine, cardiovascular disease, breast surgery, osteopathic emergency medicine, traditional osteopathic rotating internship, an emergency medical services. In addition there are residency training programs in clinical pastoral education (5), administrative residency (2) and pharmacy residency (1).

LVHHN's nursing staff comprises 2,334 registered nurses with nearly 350 nurses having achieved certification in their specialty--above the benchmark when compared to all Magnet hospitals. LVHHN is designated a National Magnet Hospital, the most prestigious recognition for nursing excellence in the country. Magnet hospitals attract and retain the best nurses because of their reputation for nursing excellence. Because of the emphasis on quality, patient satisfaction and professional excellence, LVHHN has a 5% nursing vacancy rate, lower than most in the country. Patients consistently rate the nursing care at LVHHN above the 90th percentile among similar hospitals nationwide.

This past year, staff at LVHHN cared for more than 54,200 patients in the hospital, treated tens of thousands of outpatients, attended to over 129,400 emergency department cases, delivered more than 3,500 babies, and reached thousands more in the community through health screenings and education and prevention programs.

LVHHN Leadership
Elliot J. Sussman, M.D., President & CEO
Stuart Paxton, Chief Operating Officer
Ronald W. Swinfard, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Vaughn C. Gower, Chief Financial Officer
Terry A. Capuano, Chief Nursing Officer

What Others Say About LVHHN
- U.S. News & World Report guide to America’s Best Hospitals for 12 straight years including six specialty areas in 2007
- FORTUNE magazine’s “100 Best Companies to Work For” in 2007 and 2008; only Pa.-based employer listed in 2008
- Hospitals & Health Networks 100 Most Wired for the sixth straight year and Most Wireless for the third time in 2007
- Among just 44 hospitals and health systems on both the Best Hospitals and Most Wired lists for 2007
- Verispan IHN 100 most integrated health networks for seventh straight year in 2008
- One of 41 U.S. hospitals named 2007 “Leapfrog Top Hospitals” for quality and safety
- National Magnet Hospital designation in 2002 and re-designation in 2006, the American Nurses Association’s (ANA) highest honor for excellence in nursing
- Only Pa. hospital to win three Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania Achievement Awards for 2006; Only recipient of new Innovation Award for Regional MI Alert
- American Hospital Association McKesson Quest for Quality Prize Citation of Merit winner for 2005
- Only recipient of the National Quality Health Care Award in 2003

more…
• LVH was Pennsylvania’s first Level I Trauma Center and remains the only Level I trauma center in the Lehigh Valley region with additional qualifications in pediatric trauma. LVH’s trauma staff serves the residents of an eight-county area as part of Pennsylvania’s trauma system composed of 26 accredited trauma centers.

• LVHHN operates Lehigh Valley Hospital MedEvac, a helicopter transport for trauma and other emergency patients. MedEvac helicopters are based in Berks, Carbon, Monroe and Schuylkill counties. Operating since 1981, the service logs over 2,000 flights a year and covers all of eastern Pennsylvania, most of New Jersey, southeastern New York, northeastern Maryland and northern Delaware.

• LVHHN is a Joint Commission certified Primary Stroke Center and assembled the first and only team in eastern Pennsylvania outside of Philadelphia trained to diagnose and treat stroke quickly and accurately. Modeled after a trauma team that pulls specialists together quickly, the stroke rapid response team ensures that potent new drugs used to treat stroke are administered within the critical three-hour window of the onset of symptoms.

• LVH’s Burn Center is a regional referral center for both pediatric and adult burn patients. The 18-bed unit features a burn treatment room specially designed to prevent infection, control pain and promote healing. The comprehensive Burn Center serves patients from across eastern Pennsylvania as well as New Jersey, New York and surrounding areas.

• LVHHN’s Regional Heart Center is one of the largest in Pennsylvania with 1,000 open-heart surgeries and 1,900 angioplasties performed each year at two sites. For the past six years, LVH has been named one of the country’s top programs for heart care and heart surgery by U.S News & World Report. The Regional Heart Center is a regional leader in research in cardiology and cardiac surgery.

• LVHHN has the fourth largest Cancer Center in Pennsylvania and takes care of more than 2,400 new patients each year in Allentown and Bethlehem. Our board-certified physicians are renowned pioneers in cancer research, treatment and prevention. The Cancer Center is in the top one percent for patient satisfaction nationwide and is a founding member of the Penn State Cancer Institute.

• LVHHN has one of the top orthopedics programs in Pennsylvania based on volume, patient outcomes, length of stay and other criteria. LVHHN performs over 1,200 total joint replacements yearly and pioneered development of the nation’s first fully mobile bearing knee replacement and cementless knee and hip joints. LVHHN is also one of the few hospitals in the country offering “reverse shoulder” surgery for patients with a damaged rotator cuff.

• The Behavioral Health Science Center at LVH – Muhlenberg in Bethlehem reflects a new vision for mental health services with a shift away from lengthy hospital stays toward a more flexible outpatient approach. Inpatient psychiatric services provide 52 adult and 13 adolescent beds where staff and physicians develop individualized treatment plans to assist patients in coping with stress, setting goals and communication. A variety of outpatient programs for adults and adolescents are also available.

LVH's 20-bed inpatient pediatrics unit provides inpatient care for children of all ages. The highest level Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in the region offers expert medical and surgical care for newborns and premature infants. The NICU and the region’s only Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), a seven-bed unit devoted to the care of critically ill or injured children, are located at the Cedar Crest campus. The area's only Pediatric Ambulatory Surgical Unit (PASU) and the Pediatric Specialty Center are located at the LVH-Muhlenberg campus. The outpatient pediatric clinic at 17th and Chew in Allentown handles more than 19,000 visits a year.

• LVH-Muhlenberg provides the most advanced technology and treatment options to couples having difficulty becoming pregnant. One of only a handful of certified “class 100” cleanroom in-vitro fertilization laboratories in the country, the IVF lab combines state-of-the-art technology with an empathetic and compassionate human approach.

• LVH’s Center for Healthy Aging opened in October 2002. Funded in part by a federal grant, the center is located at LVH - 17th & Chew. The center brings together medical services, community agencies and educational resources to meet the unique needs of the community’s older adults.

• LVHHN is the only hospital in the region using a state-of-the-art Computer Assisted Physician Order Entry (CAPOE) system to replace handwritten charts with computerized digital technology, CAPOE helps ensure that patients receive the proper tests and medication as ordered by a physician.

• At LVHHN’s Advanced-ICU (AICU) off-site control center physician intensivists and critical care nurses oversee the care of critically ill patients at two Lehigh Valley Hospital locations. In September 2005, the AICU started monitoring patients for the Good Shepherd Long Term Acute Care Hospital – a first in the long-term care industry.

• Lehigh Valley Home Health Services includes Lehigh Valley Home Care, Lehigh Valley Hospice and Health Spectrum Pharmacy Services (retail and infusion).

• In existence since 1994, Spirit of Women is a grassroots initiative spearheaded by LVHHN offering programs three times a year to women of all ages. The initiative seeks to positively influence a woman’s total well-being, enhance her understanding of work, family and health issues and celebrate her accomplishments through an annual awards program.

• LVHHN’s fiscal year 2007 revenues were $1.098 billion, which resulted in a $65.5 million gain from patient care services. LVHHN’s total assets of $1.503 billion at the end of fiscal year 2007 put the network in a sound financial position.

• Behind the Scenes Hospital Tours offer an up-close-and-personal tour of LVH-Cedar Crest and are open to participants age 13 or above (those 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult). LVHHN has an established speaker’s bureau that includes a highly accomplished team of physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals who are ready to share the latest information on a variety of timely topics with community groups and organizations.

Additional information is available at www.lvh.org on the Internet or by calling 610-402-CARE.

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