

**LifeFlight of Maine Helicopter Arrives at York Hospital for staff training**

DATE: Thursday, March 26, 2009

TIME: Approx. 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: York Hospital Helipad

(located at the end of Williams Avenue/adjacent to the York Hospital parking area)

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## YORK HOSPITAL OPENS NEW HELIPAD

(York, Maine) Thanks to program coordinated by the LifeFlight Foundation to utilize state bond funds for helipad construction, York Hospital received \$100,000 to build a new helipad dedicated to medical evacuations. The helipad is one of the projects of the Hospital's For Every Patient Campaign.

York Hospital utilizes helicopter air medical transport services to transfer seriously ill or injured patients from the hospital to a tertiary care facility when necessary. While York Hospital provides advanced care for most situations, the need for air transports still proves vital and, in certain circumstances, necessary. Prior to the construction of the new helipad, helicopters were landing in the general parking area outside the main entrance to the hospital - which meant moving cars at a moment's notice for medical evacuations.

Jud Knox, President of York Hospital, noted an example of when helicopter transports can mean the difference - "when a patient arrives at York Hospital presenting with symptoms of stroke it is imperative that we act quickly and decisively. Our neurologists and ER physicians often confer with stroke specialists from Massachusetts General Hospital through our TeleStroke program. If a patient needs highly specialized stroke treatment that is not available at York Hospital, we immediately transfer the patient. Because minutes can make the difference in their recovery, having a dedicated helipad for emergency transport is essential. We thank the LifeFlight Foundation for their support."

Tom Judge, Executive Director of LifeFlight Foundation added, "It's all about ensuring safety and reliability. By building larger, dedicated helipads, hospitals in the state of Maine can better serve their patients."

About York Hospital: York Hospital is a not-for-profit 79-bed hospital located on the southern coast of Maine - A modern facility with excellent medical/surgical units, an outstanding emergent care center, extensive inpatient and outpatient services and many year-round community programs. York Hospital is known for its passion for detail and desire to make every patient's visit an unusually pleasing one. The staff of York Hospital continuously seeks to ensure maximum treatment effectiveness through the provision of superior care. York Hospital recently kicked off the For Every Patient Campaign to renovate and expand the Surgical Center, renovate and privatize patient rooms, and build a dedicated helipad for emergency patient transport.

About LifeFlight Foundation: The LifeFlight Foundation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization that provides fundraising and public relations support to LifeFlight of Maine. Supported by the generosity of the many friends of LifeFlight, the Foundation raises funds for aircraft, hospital helipads, statewide aviation improvements and the many training

outreach programs offered by LifeFlight staff, including trauma and critical care, brain injury, ground safety, cardiac care and injury prevention programs at elementary schools.

For more information about the services offered by York Hospital, please call the Fundraising Office at 207-351-2385.

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