



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**WEST VIRGINIA HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY APPROVES
ACQUISITION OF ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL BY SIGNATURE HOSPITAL CORPORATION**

-- Approval Paves Way for Strong Partnership; Bright Future for Local Community Hospital --

PARKERSBURG, WV – The West Virginia Health Care Authority has approved the proposed transfer of St. Joseph's Hospital to Signature Hospital Corporation from LifePoint Hospitals Inc., officials announced today.

"We are pleased that Signature Hospital Corporation has received approval today from the WV Health Care Authority to purchase St. Joseph's Hospital," said Patsy Hardy, Chief Executive Officer of St. Joseph's Hospital. "We are excited to be a part of the Signature family of hospitals and look forward to the transaction being completed within the next several weeks."

Signature Hospital Corporation announced its intent to acquire St. Joseph's from LifePoint in September of last year.

"We want to thank the Authority for its diligence in this matter and we are very enthused about becoming a vital part of the Mid-Ohio Valley community," said Charles R. Miller, President and Chief Executive Officer of Signature Hospital Corporation. "We look forward to partnering with the employees and physicians at St. Joseph's to build a strong partnership benefiting the entire region."

Miller said the company expects to finalize the transaction in the very near future.

About St. Joseph's Hospital

St. Joseph's Hospital is a 325-bed acute care facility located in Parkersburg, West Virginia. Founded in 1900 by the Sisters of Saint Joseph, the hospital boasts state-of-the-art technology and a team of dedicated employees and physicians. St. Joseph's offers comprehensive acute medical care and surgical services on both an inpatient and outpatient basis. The facility is the only open-heart surgery and angioplasty program within a 90-mile radius and was the first permanently designated Level III Trauma Program in the Mid-Ohio Valley. The hospital was named a Top 100 Hospital by Solucient in 2000.

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About Signature

Based in Dallas, Texas, Signature Hospital Corp. is a privately held company founded in 2005 that is dedicated to providing affordable, state-of-the-art medical services to community hospitals. Anchored by a strong commitment to measuring and improving quality in its hospitals, the company owns and operates three hospitals: 115-licensed bed Pampa Regional Medical Center in Pampa, Texas; 161-licensed bed Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton, Texas; and 79-licensed bed Medical Park Hospital in Hope, Ark.

Signature's board and management team boast more than two centuries of combined experience in healthcare management and finance. Signature's financial partner is Goldman Sachs, the nation's premier investment banking firm. For more information on Signature, please visit www.signaturehospital.com.

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