

RELEASE DRAFT – 01.11.2011

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PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY
Palmetto General Hospital remembers its past and celebrates its future as a comprehensive medical center serving Miami-Dade communities

MIAMI (Jan. 20, 2011) – Today, Palmetto General Hospital celebrated 40 years of providing high quality healthcare to the community. The day of celebration was marked by crowds of Miami-Dade County city leaders, hospital employees and members of the local community that gathered to remember Palmetto General Hospital’s humble beginnings and recognize the advanced medical center that stands today.

“Even though we have significantly expanded our hospital over the last 40 years, we have always stayed true to our Mission to provide excellent and compassionate healthcare services to our patients,” said CEO Ana Mederos. “Our vow is to continue moving forward with this Mission in the years to come, and become the Hospital of choice in South Florida for patients, physicians and employees.”

Founded in 1971 by a small group of doctors, the hospital opened its doors with 50 beds, 70 physicians and 100 staff members. In its early beginnings, only a few floors were in use. The first departments included the emergency room, general surgery, medicine, radiology, pathology, respiratory and rehabilitation.

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By the end of its first decade, Palmetto General Hospital had significantly expanded with the construction of its first professional medical buildings. The hospital's growth at this time was guided by the influx of political exiles from Cuba and immigrants from Latin America, as this community brought changing health needs.

For Palmetto General Hospital, the 80s and 90s were marked by the integration of technologies and a growing list of hospital programs, including an Outpatient Rehabilitation Center, Inpatient Behavioral Health Unit; Oncology Center, and a Diabetes Education Center. The Maternity Center was added in 1990, including a Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). By the late 90s, the hospital also built a separate Pediatric Emergency area, with its own kid-friendly waiting room, triage and patient rooms. This growth continued as the hospital moved into the new millennium.

The new millennium began with the opening of the "Just For WomenTM" Diagnostic Center, followed by the Weight Loss Surgery Program. This program would eventually be rated the number one Bariatric Program in Miami-Dade County and number two in Florida by *HealthGrades*. Even more significant was the creation of its cardiac surgery program. The hospital received approval for an Open-Heart Surgery Program in 2004 and opened *The Heart Institute* at Palmetto General Hospital in 2006. Today, the hospital is ranked among the Top 10 in Florida for Cardiac Surgery and received a 5-Star Rating for Valve Replacement Surgery by HealthGrades (2011).

The latest addition to the hospital is the *Vascular Institute* at Palmetto General Hospital, which offers comprehensive vascular and endovascular procedures. The Institute also brings together multiple specialists, including surgeons; cardiologists; interventional cardiologists; interventional radiologists; wound care and diabetes experts; and hyperbaric physicians to address every aspect of vein health.

Since its early beginnings 40 years ago, Palmetto General Hospital has evolved into a major medical center in South Florida, with 360 beds, over 600 physicians and 1,400 employees. The hospital provides a wide spectrum of award-winning services, and is poised to make even more strides as it continues to develop cutting-edge programs and services for the multinational community it serves.

About Palmetto General Hospital

Palmetto General Hospital, part of Tenet's Miami-Dade/Broward Health Network, is a 360-bed acute-care hospital located at 2001 West 68th Street in Hialeah, Florida. The hospital has served the medical and health care needs of Northwest Miami-Dade and Southwest Broward counties for more than 30 years.

Palmetto General Hospital offers a broad range of services, including adult and pediatric emergency rooms, maternity, mental health, cancer center, hyperbaric, wound care, and sleep disorders center, a cardiac program that includes both medical and surgical services, a bariatric program that has been designated a Center of Excellence by the American Society for Bariatric Surgery and a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence as designated by the American College of Radiology. Palmetto General Hospital is fully accredited by The Joint Commission, the nation's oldest and largest hospital accreditation agency.

For its Bariatric Surgery Program, Palmetto General Hospital is the Best-Rated Hospital in Miami-Dade County and has also ranked second in Florida for 2010/2011 and among the Top 5% in the Nation for Bariatric Surgery for three consecutive years in a row by HealthGrades, the nation's leading health care quality ratings company. In addition, Palmetto General Hospital has received a 5-star rating for valve replacement surgery and stroke care for 2011 by HealthGrades.

In addition, the hospital received the 2010 American Heart Association Get With the Guidelines (GWTG) Gold Performance Achievement Award, and in 2009, the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association choose the "America's Best Hospitals" issue (July 2009) in the US News and World Report to recognize the Palmetto General Hospital for Achievements in Get With The Guidelines Programs. Palmetto General Hospital is also one of only 34 hospitals nationwide to earn Solucient's 100 Top Hospitals designation six or more times.

To learn more about Palmetto General Hospital, visit www.palmettogeneral.com.

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