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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Carondelet Health Network Associates Give Generously in 2009**  
*Area Food Banks and Homeless Shelters Grateful*

**TUCSON, Ariz. – (Jan. 27, 2010)** – Carondelet Health Network and its 5,500+ associates believe in *A Mission to Heal* – a commitment to serve the health care needs of this community and to provide for those who cannot provide for themselves. So, in the spirit of the holidays, Carondelet associates made many large donations of food and clothing for the homeless in Tucson and across Southern Arizona.

Associates from Carondelet St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, Tucson Heart Hospital, the eighteen Carondelet Medical Group primary care facilities, Holy Family Center and Carondelet Hospice and Palliative Care participated in food and clothing drives throughout November and December. They donated a total of 5,800 pounds of nonperishable food and almost \$4,800 to the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona. Donations of food and clothing collected at Holy Cross Hospital were provided to the Borderland Food Bank in Nogales. Food banks can buy about nine dollars worth of food for each dollar donated, so Carondelet's cash donation equates to more than \$43,000 in food for needy families in Southern Arizona.

"These gifts express the true meaning of the holiday season," said Cheryl Wilson-Weiss, Director of Spiritual Care for Carondelet Health Network. "They display the incredible generosity and warmth of our associates and we hope that they make a significant difference in the lives of individuals, families and the homeless in our area."

One more unique aspect of Carondelet's charitable efforts includes its second annual Christmas Sock Trees program - another rousing success. Associates, volunteers and visitors in Carondelet hospitals and offices decorated trees with new socks for the homeless. Carondelet collected and delivered more than 1,200 pairs of socks to the Primavera Foundation.

**Carondelet Health Network**, located in Tucson, Arizona, is a Catholic, nonprofit health care system dedicated to responding to the health care needs of Southern Arizonans. With a Mission to Heal, Carondelet was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet 130 years ago. Carondelet Health Network facilities include Carondelet St. Mary's Hospital, Carondelet St. Joseph's Hospital and Tucson Heart Hospital in Tucson and Carondelet Holy Cross Hospital in Nogales, Arizona. Other Carondelet services include seventeen Carondelet Medical Group primary care locations, an ambulatory surgery center and various outpatient services. Carondelet Health Network is a ministry of Ascension Health, the nation's largest Catholic, non-profit health care system. In Fiscal Year 2009, Carondelet provided over \$43 million (8.1 percent of its net revenue) in Community Benefit to improve the health of our community and increase access to health care. More information about Carondelet Health Network is available at [www.carondelet.org](http://www.carondelet.org).