LRGHealthcare To Raise $140 Million For Hospital Projects

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently announced a commitment to insure a mortgage loan to LRGHealthcare to complete a 3,200 square foot internal expansion and 2,200 square foot renovation of emergency services at Franklin Regional Hospital (FRH); a 97,000 square foot addition at the Lakes Region General Hospital (LRGH) campus; and the construction of a satellite facility to replace the Belknap Family Health facility in Meredith.

The FRH project will include a new triage area and expanded trauma and examination space.

"Three years ago, taking into account the current and future healthcare needs of our community, we launched a master facilities planning process," says LRGHealthcare President and CEO Tom Clairmont. "Through that process, all of these projects were identified as necessary. We were hoping to be able to first begin work on the LRGH addition, but thanks to the favorable rates secured through the HUD program, we are now able to move forward with all three of these needed projects. In addition, we can refinance existing debt at a favorable rate, which will provide long-term savings and stability to our community.

"These projects are vital to our ability to meet the healthcare needs of our community both today and into the future. These projects will position us to meet the growing critical and intensive care needs of our growing senior population; enhance our emergency services at FRH; meet evolving infection control and privacy standards by offering single room patient care throughout our LRGH facility; improve our infrastructure to support healthcare technology and the emergency capabilities our community needs during times of crisis; and provide greater, more convenient access to primary and specialty care, as well as other outpatient services in the Meredith community."

The Federal Housing Authority's Section 242 Hospital Mortgage Insurance Program does not loan money directly to hospitals. Instead, it insures the mortgage loans, which enables hospitals to obtain lower cost financing. By securing loans through this program, it is estimated that LRGHealthcare will save $27 million over the life of the loan.

Bond Sale

To finance the projects, LRGHealthcare is borrowing funds through the sale of tax-exempt fixed rate revenue bonds in the approximate amount of $140 million.

The bonds are issued on behalf of LRGHealthcare by the New Hampshire Health and Education Facilities Authority. The bonds have a minimum bond order amount of $5,000 and are being sold only through brokers at Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley/Smith Barney, and Wells Fargo Securities. The Preliminary Official Statement on the LRGHealthcare Web site at www.LRGH.org has information about security for the bonds, their sources of payment, bondholders' risks, and other details.

LRGHealthcare VetLink Program Assists All Veterans and Families

On Veterans Day, November 11, our nation took the time to honor and thank our men and women who have served, or are serving, in the military. On Veterans Day each year, we pause to remember the bravery they have shown and the sacrifices they have made so that we may live in freedom.

Veterans Day is important, but honoring our veterans and showing them we care about the sacrifices they have made on our behalf should not be reserved for a single day.

LRGHealthcare's mission is to make quality healthcare available, affordable, and accessible to all, regardless of ability to pay. Our HealthLink program serves as our community's "front door" to healthcare, providing our friends and neighbors with the resources they need to secure access to healthcare. Our VetLink program provides that same "front door" to healthcare for the veterans in our community.

VetLink assists all veterans and families of veterans with their questions and concerns about their healthcare. The Veterans Administration (VA) system is complicated, and VetLink can help veterans navigate the system to access the benefits and services that they need and deserve.

In seven years of operation, VetLink has helped more than 1,000 veterans access the care they need through the VA system. The program has also helped veterans access well over $1 million in compensation to which they were entitled for injuries or illnesses incurred during their service to our country.

Those who serve our country risk their own health and safety to protect our liberty. Our country's promise to them is that, through the VA system, they will be cared for upon their return. Through the VetLink program, LRGHealthcare is helping veterans navigate the VA system to access the care and benefits to which they are entitled. And we are working to show veterans through our commitment to them that we honor the sacrifices they were willing to make for each and every one of us – not just on Veterans Day, but every day.

All veterans who have earned an honorable discharge are eligible for the VetLink program. If you are a veteran or a family member of a veteran and would like more information, please call Bob Jones at 524-3211, ext. 6568.

PUBLICIZE YOUR FUNDRAISER!
Articles, photos, and/or ads in the *Beacon* will help raise $$$ for your cause. 735-6099

Franklin Savings Bank To Provide Medication Cards

By LRGHealthcare

When we receive medical care, it's important to let our caregivers know all of the medications we are taking. Our safety depends upon it. But it can be difficult to keep track of multiple prescriptions, and when you factor in over-the-counter medications, herbal products, and vitamins, it can be virtually impossible.

Medication cards are one of the easiest ways to make sure those caring for us have an accurate picture of all the medications we are taking. While some of us visit the doctor or hospital more often than others, none of us ever know when we might need medical care. By carrying this card in your wallet and keeping it up-to-date each time you add or remove a medication, you can be sure your medication record travels with you and is available to anyone who cares for you.

LRGHealthcare and ServiceLink are working together to raise awareness and increase use of these cards in our community. Franklin Savings Bank has generously donated the funds to print the cards, and they are free to anyone in the community.

Medication cards are available at your provider's office, ServiceLink, Lakes Region General Hospital, or Franklin Regional Hospital. Keep yourself safe by stopping by to pick one up today!

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