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Siteman Cancer Center Enters Three Year Partnership with The Wellness Community of Greater St. Louis

December 4, 2008, ST. LOUIS – To give their cancer patients and their families easier access to programs offering support, education and hope, the Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine has joined The Wellness Community of Greater St. Louis in a three year partnership from 2009-2011, made possible by a grant from the Barnes-Jewish Hospital Foundation.

The partnership allows the Siteman Cancer Center to enhance support programs it currently offers to patients, such as disease specific support groups and therapeutic classes such as “Arts as Healing” with new programs in collaboration with The Wellness Community such as “Music for Recovery,” “Therapeutic Drumming,” “Ask an Attorney,” and “Gentle Yoga.”

“The Wellness Community does an outstanding job of helping those diagnosed with cancer work through difficult times,” says Teresa Deshields, PhD, manager of psycho-oncology services at Siteman Cancer Center. “With this partnership the Siteman Cancer Center can offer patients a truly comprehensive program that helps them not only better understand cancer, but makes fighting the disease an easier process.”

The partnership will offer support programs at the Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in the Central West End, but also at Siteman’s new West County location on the Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital campus that opened in July 2008.

“The partnership allows us to grow the program in West County, while complimenting what we currently offer patients on the Washington University Medical Center campus,” says Tara Hendrix, operations specialist with the Siteman Cancer Center.

“We are so pleased to be partnering with Siteman Cancer Center, a wonderful nucleus for cancer treatment. By combining their medical expertise with our educational and therapeutic services, so many cancer patients will now have a chance improve their quality of life through uplifting programs of support, education and stress management while receiving some of the best medical care in the country,” says Laura Rossmann, Executive Director of The Wellness Community.

The three year grant from the Barnes-Jewish Hospital Foundation makes possible programs for both campuses including yoga, stress management, and recovery classes focused on art and music. Programs at Barnes-Jewish Hospital begin in January 2009, with programs at West County debuting in February.

The complete list of Wellness Community of Greater St. Louis programs offered at the Siteman Cancer Center is available at www.siteman.wustl.edu.

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The Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine is an international leader in cancer treatment, research, prevention, education and community outreach. It is the only cancer center in Missouri and within a 240-mile radius of St. Louis to hold the prestigious comprehensive cancer center designation from the National Cancer Institute. The Siteman Cancer Center offers the extensive expertise of more than 300 Washington University research scientists and physicians, many of whom provide care for nearly 6,000 newly diagnosed cancer patients and more than 30,000 follow-up patients each year at Siteman's main St. Louis campus and at satellite facilities in two adjacent counties. These scientists and physicians hold \$130 million in cancer research and related training grants. The results of basic laboratory research are rapidly incorporated into treatment advances, a process that is enhanced by patient access to more than 350 cancer clinical trials. In addition, Siteman's cancer screening and educational efforts touch tens of thousands of lives annually throughout the St. Louis region.

The Wellness Community of Greater St. Louis is part of an international non-profit organization dedicated to providing free support, education and hope to people with cancer and their loved ones. Through participation in professionally led support groups, educational workshops and mind/body classes, people affected by cancer learn vital skills that enable them to regain control, reduce isolation and restore hope regardless of their stage of disease. Most importantly, The Wellness Community provides a home-like setting for people fighting cancer to connect with and learn from each other. At The Wellness Community, all programs are free of charge.