



CONTACT: **Stephanie Zinn, Marketing Manager**
 231-924-1602

FOR RELEASE **Immediate**

Gerber Memorial Health Services Provides Free Care, Targeted Outreach Programs *Nonprofit Community Hospitals Provide Nearly \$2.6 Billion Statewide*

FREMONT, Mich. — Gerber Memorial Health Services provided \$13,722,079 in community benefits programs such as free and discounted health screenings, prescription drugs, free clinics, health fairs, counseling and direct patient care to Newaygo County residents in fiscal year 2007.

“When Newaygo County residents are injured, sick or in need of medical attention, they turn to Gerber Memorial Health Services — day and night, day in and day out — for quality medical treatment,” said Randy Stasik, President and CEO, Gerber Memorial Health Services. “And like all Michigan nonprofit hospitals, the doors of Gerber Memorial Health Services are open to all, regardless of medical conditions or ability to pay for care.”

Gerber Memorial Health Services community benefit contributions are part of a statewide total that was recently released by the Michigan Health & Hospital Association in its *2008 Hospital Community Benefits Report*. Of the statewide totals in the report, Gerber Memorial Health Services:

- provided more than \$6,478,670 to cover costs of direct patient care provided to residents who could not pay for medical services
- provided more than \$699,530 in community health improvement services to local residents
- offered more than 65 free or reduced-fee community-based programs to ensure healthier children, safer environments, earlier detection of disease and enhanced access to basic health care services
- supplied the following additional programs and services, including ...
 - Asthma Education
 - Cancer Education
 - Diabetes Education
 - Health Fairs
 - Weight Management Education
 - Seniors Outreach
 - Women’s Health Seminars

The 2008 report represents the voluntary efforts of 132 of Michigan’s 146 nonprofit hospitals that responded to the most recent community benefit survey. Michigan hospitals provide direct patient care to those who cannot afford it and administer countless health, education and transportation programs to address the specific needs of local communities across the state. These services are often provided at no cost to residents, as they are essential to the well-being of the community and an integral part of nonprofit hospitals’ tax-exempt purpose.

“The report demonstrates how Gerber Memorial Health Services goes above and beyond our mission to deliver essential health care services,” said Stasik. “We’re working tirelessly to keep Newaygo County residents healthier and to meet our community needs, regardless of a patient’s ability to pay.”

“As the state struggles through the growing pains of a changing economy, Michigan residents are faced with increasing instability and uncertainties,” said Spencer Johnson, president of the Michigan Health & Hospital Association. “While Michigan continues to have the highest unemployment rate in the nation, residents should not have to forgo a regular checkup, a necessary medical procedure or life-saving prescription drugs because they do not have the ability to pay for care — and that is where Michigan’s nonprofit community hospitals come in.”

In 2007, Michigan’s nonprofit community hospitals provided nearly \$2.6 billion in community benefits that represent high-quality direct patient care provided to those who cannot afford it, as well as programs provided free to the community. This number also reflects costs absorbed by hospitals when payments do not cover the full costs of direct patient care (charity care, bad debt, and payment shortfalls from Medicaid, Medicare and other government programs).

To view the full statewide community benefits report online, visit www.MHA.org.

###

Gerber Memorial Health Services is a 77-bed, acute care hospital and health care organization which serves the entire community of Newaygo County. Recognized as one of the 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work for in West Michigan, and the Outstanding Rural Healthcare Organization of 2008, GMHS services include a 24-hour Emergency Department, Women's Health Center, Cancer Center, modern Surgical Suites and accompanying ICU Unit, Birth Center, Tamarac - The Center for Health and Well-Being, New Focus Center for Mental Health and Continu-Care Home Health Services. Gerber Memorial Hospital is located in Fremont, Michigan, 45 miles NW of Grand Rapids.

.

.