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JULY 29, 2008



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COLORECTAL CANCER TASK FORCE AMONG NATION'S BEST

[ST. MARYS, OH JULY 29, 2008] –

The Northwest Ohio Colorectal Task Force was honored as a finalist for the 2008 NOVA Awards by the American Hospital Association in a July 17 announcement, ranking the program among the top 14 in the nation.

The Task Force, a collaborative effort between Joint Township District Memorial Hospital, and Lima's St. Rita's Medical Center and Lima Memorial Hospital works with area healthcare organizations, community groups and physicians to raise awareness and provide screenings and treatment, if necessary, for colorectal cancers. The task force, since its inception, has helped thousands of residents discover and treat or prevent this deadly disease.

"Receiving this distinction is a testament to the hard work of the Task Force and the joint efforts of all the organizations involved. This program falls squarely within our mission to foster a healthier community and be a true advocate for our patients and patient families," said Kevin Harlan, President and CEO of Grand Lake Health System and Joint Township District Memorial Hospital.

The AHA NOVA Awards are presented annually to leaders in the health care field that create initiatives to improve community health through collaborative efforts among health systems, hospitals, and organizations across their regions. Finalists for this award are selected through an extensive review process conducted by a committee of highly distinguished health care professionals and executives.

"It is an excellent example of what hospitals and their collaborative partners are achieving in their communities in improving community health status," said Kathy Poole, Director of Governance Programs for the AHA in a letter to the Task Force.

For information about the programs offered by the Northwestern Ohio Colorectal Task Force, please contact Joint Township District Memorial Hospital at 877-564-6897.