For Immediate Release – Oct. 22, 2019

HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center Receives International Recognition as Designated Baby-Friendly Birth Facility

Green Bay – HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center in Green Bay has received prestigious, international recognition as a designated Baby-Friendly birth facility, by Baby-Friendly USA, Inc.

Baby-Friendly USA, Inc. is the U.S. authority for the implementation of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) – a global program sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

The initiative encourages and recognizes hospitals and birthing centers that offer an optimal level of care for breastfeeding mothers and their babies. Based on the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding, this prestigious award recognizes birth facilities that offer breastfeeding mothers the information, confidence and skills needed to successfully initiate and continue breastfeeding their babies.

“We know that by practicing the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding, the moms and babies we care for will have a wonderful beginning together and health benefits that will last over the child’s lifetime,” said Amber Chibuk, Executive Director of Women and Infant Services for HSHS – Eastern Wisconsin Division.

There are more than 20,000 designated Baby-Friendly hospitals and birth centers worldwide. Currently, there are 587 active Baby-Friendly hospitals and birth centers in the United States. HSHS St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay received Baby-Friendly designation in 2015. HSHS St. Vincent and St. Mary’s are the only two hospitals in Green Bay to be designated as Baby-Friendly birth facilities by Baby-Friendly USA, Inc.

The Baby-Friendly designation is given after a rigorous, on-site survey is completed. The award is maintained by continuing to practice the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding, as demonstrated by quality processes.

About HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center

HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center has been delivering quality health care to Green Bay and its surrounding communities since 1903. Patients benefit from a comprehensive range of services that include cancer care, women’s services, emergency care, preventive care across the lifespan, digestive health, orthopedic, and cardiac care. An affiliate of Hospital Sisters Health System, the hospital’s primary purpose is to continue Christ’s healing love through the delivery of competent and compassionate health care in an environment sensitive to the needs of all people. HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center has been named one of the “100 Top Hospitals” nationwide and is accredited by the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. An affiliate of Hospital Sisters Health System, we draw on the
history of St. Francis of Assisi as we move to continue serving the health care needs of our area in Christ’s healing ministry, caring for all people.

**About Hospital Sisters Health System**
Hospital Sisters Health System’s (HSHS) mission is to reveal and embody Christ’s healing love for all people through our high quality, Franciscan health care ministry. HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care to our patients and is dedicated to serving all people, especially the most vulnerable, at each of our 15 Local Systems and physician practices in Illinois (Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Greenville, Highland, Litchfield, O’Fallon, Shelbyville and Springfield) and Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Oconto Falls, Sheboygan, and two in Green Bay). HSHS is sponsored by Hospital Sisters Ministries. For more information about HSHS, visit [www.hshs.org](http://www.hshs.org). For more information about Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, visit [www.hospitalsisters.org](http://www.hospitalsisters.org).