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**Rappahannock General Hospital and Bon Secours Virginia Enter into Agreement**  
***Affiliation designed to enhance scope and quality of health care delivery***

**Kilmarnock, VA (Jan. 16, 2012)** – Rappahannock General Hospital and Bon Secours Virginia Health System have entered into an affiliation agreement aimed at enhancing clinical care and accessibility for residents in the Rappahannock General (RGH) service area, which includes Virginia’s Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. Talks between the two entities began last year when a formal letter of intent was signed.

“This relationship is something we’ve been eager to formalize for some time,” said James M. Holmes, Jr., CEO of Rappahannock General Hospital. “We have had a long-standing association with Bon Secours, and this agreement will make it possible for us to expand the care we deliver to patients. We are very excited about the positive changes that are coming.”

Rappahannock General will remain an independent community based hospital. The hospital, governed by a board of directors made up of local community leaders, will continue with the current governance model.

The affiliation will be a clinical collaboration, expanding services at Rappahannock General.

“Our intent with this agreement is to work with Rappahannock General in a way that benefits the hospital and the community it serves,” said Peter J. Bernard, CEO of Bon Secours Virginia Health System. “It’s a solid hospital with a history of delivering excellent care to the community. We want to help Rappahannock General enhance its services.”

Key components of the agreement include:

- Access to higher levels of care with increased access to medical specialists
- Support for retention and expansion of health services
- Support for strategic recruitment of physicians to meet the needs of the community
- Enhanced training opportunities for RGH staff

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According to Holmes, the affiliation will make it possible for Rappahannock General to provide expanded services to the community without relinquishing operational control. “Our goal always is to provide the best possible patient care,” said Holmes. “This arrangement allows us to expand services and continue to operate as an independent sole community hospital.”

“I also expect this agreement to have a very positive economic impact on our community,” said Holmes. “Increasing the services available at Rappahannock General will drive job creation. This is a win for our entire community.”

The public is invited to attend an open forum to be held at 6 p.m., on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012, at the RGH Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine Center, located next to the Northern Neck Family YMCA. Representatives from both RGH and Bon Secours will be available to answer questions from the community.

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#### **About Rappahannock General Hospital**

Rappahannock General Hospital (RGH) is an independent, community owned, not-for-profit health care facility. RGH has consistently received national recognition for achievements in accordance with the Hospital mission “to provide quality, compassionate care to all patients in the most cost-effective manner.” RGH has more than 100 physicians on their medical staff.

Rappahannock Health System is the umbrella organization that encompasses Rappahannock General Hospital, Chesapeake Medical Group and Rappahannock General Hospital Foundation.

Chesapeake Medical Group (CMG) consists of five family practice offices, two urgent care centers and specialty offices including pediatrics, gynecology and general surgery with locations throughout the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula.

Rappahannock Health System employs almost 500 members of the local community, including 24 physicians. The Hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

#### **About Bon Secours Virginia Health System**

Bon Secours Virginia (BSV) is the fourth largest and only faith-based health system in Virginia. It is comprised of Bon Secours Richmond and Bon Secours Hampton Roads. Bon Secours Virginia includes seven award-winning hospitals: four in Richmond (St. Mary’s Hospital, Memorial Regional Medical Center, Richmond Community Hospital and St. Francis Medical Center) and three in Hampton Roads (Maryview Medical Center, DePaul Medical Center and Mary Immaculate Hospital). Bon Secours Virginia is part of the Bon Secours Health System, headquartered in Marriottsville, Md.

Bon Secours brings together a network of hospitals, primary care practices, ambulatory care sites and continuing care facilities to provide quality health care services to thousands of Virginians. The not-for-profit Catholic health system employs nearly 12,000 people, more than 7,000 in Richmond and 4,000 in Hampton Roads. Bon Secours Virginia hospitals offer a full-range of services including cardiac, women’s, children’s, orthopaedics, oncology, neurosciences, surgery.