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## **For Immediate Release**

### **Stormont-Vail HealthCare Auxiliary recipient of the Stormont-Vail Foundation 2009 Bal Jeffrey award**

(Topeka, Kan., Oct. 26, 2009) – The Stormont-Vail Foundation will present the 2009 Bal Jeffrey Award to the Stormont-Vail HealthCare Auxiliary at a dinner and program Wednesday, Oct. 28, at the Ramada Hotel and Convention Center. The annual Bal Jeffrey Award recognizes and honors distinguished contributors to health care in northeast Kansas. The award is named for Balfour S. Jeffrey, Stormont-Vail's longest-tenured board member, who played a major role in the growth of health care for more than 40 years.

For over 60 years, the Stormont-Vail HealthCare Auxiliary's moneymaking efforts have contributed over \$3 million dollars in support of numerous Stormont-Vail HealthCare projects, including:

- Annual Nursing and Continuing Education scholarships
- Newborn Baby's First Book, Welcome Balloons and Comfort Quilts for patients
- Renovation and remodeling of the Food Connection and Gift Shop, several times
- Funding for The Birthplace, the *Care* Line, BIG HEARTS for little hearts, Diabetes Learning Center, Nursing Resource Center, Stork's Cradle Closet, Stormont-Vail *West* and the Angel Fund for the Cotton-O'Neil Cancer Center
- \$20,000 each for the Heart Center Community Kitchen and the Nursing Community Outreach Centers

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## Add 1 2009 Bal Jeffrey award

- \$150,000 for construction of the Pozez Education Center
- \$250,000 for the Geriatric Assessment Center
- \$100,000 for Learning for Life community education endowment
- \$100,000 each for construction of the North Tower, the Surgery Suites, the Neonatal IntensiveCare Unit, the Cotton-O'Neil Cancer Center, the Emergency Department/Trauma Center and the Pediatrics program
- Support to countless other health center departments for equipment and amenities for patients.

The birth of Stormont-Vail HealthCare Auxiliary, one of the most effective and supportive hospital organizations in Kansas, took place in May 1949; within a month after the merging of Christ's Hospital and Jane C. Stormont Hospital, both of which were founded in Topeka in the late 1800s. A small organizational group of women was followed by a meeting of over 100 ladies, who created the first Auxiliary. Eighteen days later, there were more than 300 members, who divided themselves into groups and wrote the Auxiliary purpose.

Today, the Auxiliary membership is comprised of men and women in the community of all ages who have an interest in learning about the programs and services of Stormont-Vail HealthCare. Their voluntary efforts help support the health center's mission, "Working Together to Improve the Health of Our Community."

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