



Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana, Inc.

Community Hospital
St. Catherine Hospital
St. Mary Medical Center

February 9, 2010

Office of Senator Richard G. Lugar
306 Senate Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator,

Attached are two projects that I am submitting to you for funding through the FY'11 federal funding appropriations process for Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana, Inc. and its wholly-owned hospital subsidiaries.

Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana, Inc. ("CFNI") is the parent company supporting three hospitals located in Northwest Indiana. The three hospitals are St. Catherine Hospital, Inc. in East Chicago, St. Mary Medical Center, Inc. in Hobart, and Community Hospital in Munster. All four entities are 501(c)(3) organizations and all the hospitals provide inpatient, outpatient and emergency care services to residents within their geographic region.

The projects are:

- 1) St. Mary Medical Center, Inc. (Hobart, IN)
Emergency Department Expansion
Total Cost: \$6,623,345
REQUEST: \$2,500,000

The goals of the St. Mary Medical Center Emergency Department Expansion are to increase capacity for the Emergency Department to allow for 41,000 annual visits, provide an up-to-date emergency department environment that promotes adequate access to care for the community, increase patient safety with timely treatment and patient privacy, enhance patient and physician satisfaction, and eliminate emergency room bypass hours. St. Mary Medical Center Emergency Room has seen an increase in annual visits of 22,927 patients in 2005 to over 31,000 patients in 2009, or a 35% increase in the last four years. As a non-profit hospital we continue to support the community and treat all patients regardless of their ability to pay. Our population consists of 53% Medicare patients, 10% Medicaid patients, and 2% Self Pay patients, with the remaining 35% as third party insured patients.

- 2) St. Catherine Hospital, Inc. (East Chicago, IN)
Neurology/Intermediate Care Unit Expansion
Total Cost: \$850,000
REQUEST: \$850,000

St. Catherine Hospital is the sole provider of inpatient services within the city of East Chicago. The population it serves has a high incidence of hypertension and diabetes which results in increased incidents of cardiac and neurological illnesses. Currently our Neurology (neuro) / CVA patients are dispersed throughout the hospital. We average approximately 4.8 patients per day with a neuro diagnosis. This is insufficient for the hospital population we treat. Many of these patients receive care on IMCU. By cohorting patients to a single area, nursing staff can receive additional education and the implementation of evidence-based treatment protocols can more easily be implemented and monitored. We are unable to monitor patients with new seizure disorders as we lack the needed equipment (cameras and neuro monitoring) to do so. Our neurologists estimate that if we had the ability to effectively monitor these patients, we would see an increase of ten (10) patients per month who have this need.

As the Senior Vice President Finance & Chief Financial Officer for the system, I will be the contact person for these projects. My contact information is as follows:

Mary Ann Shacklett
Senior Vice President Finance & CFO
Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana, Inc.
10010 Donald Powers Drive, Suite 201
Munster, Indiana 46321

Phone: 219-934-8250
Email: mshacklett@comhs.org

Thank you for your consideration of these projects.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Shacklett
Senior Vice President Finance & CFO