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Patio Garden Beautification Project Kicks Off at JFK Hartwyck at Oak Tree

Edison, NJ: On September 19, 2006, JFK Medical Center's Extended Recovery Unit will be conducting a Patio Garden Beautification Project. Their existing patio area will be improved with the help of local business and corporate volunteers. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on September 21 and the finished garden will be unveiled.

"We spent a long summer fundraising, doing car washes and seeking donations. The patio area is a place for patients and their families to relax, and we wanted to make it an even better space," says Cheryl Dougherty, Rehabilitation Supervisor of the Inpatient Brain Injury Unit at Oak Tree. "With the help of a number of volunteers it is time for the garden to become a reality."

Through the United Way "Day of Caring," Hartwyck at Oak Tree obtained volunteers from Sanofi-Aventis Pharmaceutical Company with project leader Patricia Hill. Donating their professional services, Andy and Nancy Burns from their business Pond Builders in Oxford, New Jersey are donating their time. Staff members from the Extended Recovery Unit are also donating their time to the project. The Home Depot in Edison and Parker Gardens in Scotch Plains have donated garden materials and plants. In addition, a number of families of patients donated funds to the project.

"It's going to be a tranquil garden of paradise," says Dougherty. The second phase of the project, a wheelchair-accessible nature path, is also in the process.

For more information about the beautification project, contact Cheryl Dougherty at (732) 906-2100.

The JFK Hartwyck Centers are a network of three nonprofit long-term care facilities located in central New Jersey. They include JFK Hartwyck at Oak Tree, JFK Hartwyck at Cedar Brook and JFK Hartwyck at Edison Estates. JFK Hartwyck at Oak Tree offers a clean, comfortable setting in which residents are encouraged to enjoy their favorite pastimes with support of a caring and professional staff. Innovative services provided at Oak Tree include a head injury program, unit for ventilator-dependent patients, residential unit, and Adult Medical/Alzheimer's Day Care programs. An outpatient Cognitive Rehabilitation department and Transitional Living Program – part of the JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute's Center for Head Injuries – are also located at Oak Tree.

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