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Laughter and the Power to Heal
Parkinson's Support Group Hosts Comedian

Edison, NJ – Proving that laughter is the best medicine, the Parkinson's Support Group of Monroe Township invited Steve Franzman, a comedian, to deliver his presentation, "Laughter and the Power to Heal" with their monthly support group on October 4, 2006.

"The group expressed a need to laugh as a way to escape their disease process," says Janice Dibling, MS, CCC-SLP, Speech Pathology Manager at the JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute in Edison. "Some of them admitted that their neurologist had advised against attending support groups for fear that they would be too depressing." Other speakers at the group's monthly meetings have been dietitians, pharmacists, and psychiatrists, discussing Parkinson's related health issues; Franzman's presentation is non-clinical, but still geared towards healing.

Dibling worked with the American Parkinson's Disease Association Coordinator for New Jersey to connect Franzman to the group. Franzman, who resides in Monroe Township, is a heart transplant recipient who speaks about humor and its healing power, and his wife was a former attendee of the Parkinson's support group.

For more information about the group, please contact Janice Dibling at the JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute at (732) 321-7063.

Founded in 1974, The JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute is a major component of Solaris Health System, one of New Jersey's most comprehensive healthcare networks. The JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute headquartered at the JFK Medical Center in Edison is a comprehensive rehabilitative service provider focused on educating the community on rehabilitative health and helping adults and children with disabilities reach optimal function and independence. JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for its Comprehensive Inpatient Rehabilitation, Brain Injury, and Comprehensive Vocational Evaluation programs. For more information on The JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute, call 732-321-7790 or visit the organization online at <http://www.njrehab.org>.

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