



***For Immediate Release:***

Contact:

Dawn Woods, HealthSpan, [dpwoods@health-partners.org](mailto:dpwoods@health-partners.org) or 513-551-1474

Louella Riddle, Physician's Health Collaborative/HealthSpan, [louella\\_riddle@mhsnr.org](mailto:louella_riddle@mhsnr.org) or 419-251-0006

Sarah Bednarski, Mercy (Toledo), [sarah\\_bednarski@mhsnr.org](mailto:sarah_bednarski@mhsnr.org) or 419-251-8929

***HealthSpan, the leading independent Cincinnati based Preferred Provider Organization owned by Catholic Health Partners, collaborates with Mercy (Toledo) to introduce a new and enhanced PPO network product in Toledo***

Cincinnati, Toledo, Ohio, January 12, 2011, ---As a proactive move to address anticipated changes in the national healthcare delivery model, Catholic Health Partners (CHP), the state's largest healthcare provider, is creating an enhanced Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) network product in Northwest Ohio. HealthSpan LLC, CHP's Cincinnati based Regional Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) Network and Care Management Company is introducing a new PPO product for self funded employers in Greater Toledo and Northwest Ohio in partnership with Mercy, a seven hospital region of CHP.

The new HealthSpan "high value network" product is designed to trim down the employers' medical plan cost curve by directing patients to high quality, cost effective providers and engaging members in wellness, and when needed, disease management programs. HealthSpan has a track record of beating regional healthcare cost trend benchmarks. HealthSpan's primary customers are those employers who are seeking innovative ways to reduce healthcare expenditures and improve the health status of their employees by emphasizing prevention and wellness. Those programs, combined with cost effective and high quality providers controlling ongoing costs, have proven to be a winning formula for HealthSpan and their customers.

Mercy will transition its Physicians Health Collaborative PPO network to HealthSpan. This change will be seamless to members, customers, and partners as the current office and staff will be maintained under the HealthSpan umbrella.

In greater Toledo, the PPO network will be anchored by Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center, Mercy St. Charles, Mercy St. Anne and Mercy Children's Hospital. Scott Shook, Mercy senior vice president, business development and advocacy, stated: "Mercy and CHP have been recognized for quality care as evidenced by being named a top ten system by Thomson Reuters, and we know we provide true value to our patients. This product will allow us to share the results of our quality efforts and significant cost efficiency initiatives directly with those who are paying the bill, including both the patient and employer." He added, "Often the direct value equation gets lost with multiple providers in a network and the add-on costs incorporated into insurance premiums. We have been seeking a more direct relationship with local employers and the HealthSpan product will do that."

HealthSpan currently serves over 110,000 network members and more than 95,000 Care Management members, primarily in Southwest Ohio, and has been working to expand its products throughout Northwest Ohio with a focus on the Toledo and Lima markets. HealthSpan President, Ken Page confirmed the expansion and made this statement: "We are thrilled to be able to offer Northwest Ohio employers an innovative approach to managing their medical benefit plans. By partnering with employers and engaging with members, we know that healthcare costs can be controlled. A key component is our partnership with Mercy. We will be working together to coordinate care delivery and assure quality outcomes."

Louella Riddle, Director at Physician's Health Collaborative/HealthSpan said that an effort to educate employers, providers and brokers about the product will commence this month.

### About HealthSpan

Serving over 110,000 network members and 95,000 Care Management members, HealthSpan is the leading provider-owned and independent network of hospitals, physicians and ancillary services in the TriState region. With access to 100 percent of major area hospitals and 98 percent of area physicians, HealthSpan provides outstanding health benefits management to thousands of residents and dozens of employers throughout Greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, Southeastern Indiana, Greater Dayton, Springfield, Lima, and Toledo, Ohio regions. HealthSpan is also a leading provider of Care Management and Wellness services that can be delivered nationwide.

### About Mercy (Toledo)

Mercy is a seven hospital system and a preferred provider of healthcare services for a 20-county area in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. The hospital system includes: Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center, Mercy Children's Hospital, Mercy St. Charles Hospital, Mercy St. Anne Hospital, Mercy Willard Hospital, Mercy Tiffin Hospital, and Mercy Hospital of Defiance.

### About Catholic Health Partners

Headquartered in Cincinnati, Catholic Health Partners (CHP) is the largest health system in Ohio and the fourth largest employer in Ohio, and CHP is also one of the largest nonprofit health systems in the United States. With \$5.05 billion in assets, CHP employs more than 38,000 associates in more than 100 organizations — including 34 hospitals — that meet the healthcare needs of people in Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and contiguous states. Catholic Health Partners also owns Mercy Health Partners of South West Ohio which includes six award-winning, acute care hospitals--Mercy Hospital Anderson, Mercy Hospital Clermont, Mercy Hospital Fairfield, Mercy Hospital Mt. Airy, Mercy Hospital Western Hills and The Jewish Hospitals.