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RCA Recording Artist Martina McBride to Headline 2008 Mercy Charity Ball

ROGERS, Ark. (November 7, 2008) – A number of exciting changes are planned for the fifteenth annual celebration of the Mercy Health Foundation of Northwest Arkansas' Charity Ball. Perhaps the most noteworthy change is the addition of a headline entertainer – RCA recording artist Martina McBride.

“Mercy is grateful to have Martina McBride serve as the headliner for this year’s Charity Ball,” said Clark Ellison, Chief Development Officer for the Mercy Health Foundation of Northwest Arkansas. “The Mercy Charity Ball event is the premier soiree of the year in Northwest Arkansas, not to mention our primary fundraising event. The changes we are making will only ensure that the event offers an unparalleled experience for those who attend and continue to provide support for the mission of Mercy.”

Gone this year is the silent auction, with a new focus being placed on a true social event along with an exciting live auction. Many of the items in the live auction are one-of-a-kind experiences. Examples include:

- **The Inaugural** – On November 4, America voted in a historic election and Barack Obama was elected to the 44th president of the United States of America. The winner of this trip will be the personal guest of U.S. Rep. John Boozman at

Barack Obama's inauguration ceremony on January 20, 2009. They will also receive a guided tour by the congressman of Washington D.C. landmarks, including the White House and U.S. Capitol building.

- **Revlon Celebrity Trip for 2 to New York** – This trip will include: airfare for two, hotel for two nights, \$200 spending cash, two tickets to a Broadway show, makeover with free product by a fashion magazine make-over artist, attendance at the Revlon Run/Walk for Cancer Research (5K run through Central Park), and VIP admittance to the Celebrity tent.
- **A Trip for 6 People to Napa Valley** – This trip will include tours of the Foster Wine Estates and include dinner at one of the castles on their property.
- **Anheuser-Busch Brew Master Dinner for 8** – This auction item includes a meal prepared by an executive chef with a Brew Master present to explain the beers for each course. Tours of the brewery and Grants Farm will also be part of this one-of-kind trip.

Also new this year is an opportunity sponsored by Mercy Health Plans for any attendee of the Charity Ball to win two round-trip airline tickets on either Delta or American airlines to anywhere in the continental United States or Canada and stay at a Hyatt Hotel.

“We are looking forward to infusing more excitement than ever before into our Charity Ball,” Linda Phillips, Major Giving Coordinator. “We can guarantee that it will be a night to remember. We are thankful for New Creature and Sony Music Entertainment for working together to bring Martina McBride to our charity event.”

The Mercy Health Foundation Charity Ball will be held at the John Q. Hammons Center in Rogers on Saturday, December 6, 2008. Tickets and sponsorships are still available by calling the Foundation office at 479-338-2934 or visit www.mercy4u.com/foundation.

About Mercy Health Foundation of Northwest Arkansas

The mission of the Foundation is to serve Mercy as responsible stewards by securing financial support enabling Mercy to provide affordable, quality health care in a Christian environment to every individual, regardless of their financial means. The Mercy Health

Foundation is a member of Mercy Health System of Northwest Arkansas.

About Mercy Health System of Northwest Arkansas

Mercy Health System of Northwest Arkansas, a not-for-profit faith-based health system, provides healthcare services to residents in northwest Arkansas and southwest Missouri. The System includes Mercy Medical Center, the Mercy Health Foundation of Northwest Arkansas, The Gardens at Osage Terrace assisted living facility and Mercy medical clinics in 22 locations throughout northwest Arkansas and southwest Missouri. Mercy is recently opened a state-of-the-art medical campus just east of Interstate 540 off New Hope Road in southwest Rogers. The campus includes a 350,000-square-foot medical center licensed for 200 beds and a physician office building to accommodate 90 physicians.

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