

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Hospitals Provide More Than \$100 Million in Free Care** *Amount of Charity Care Hospitals Provided to Patients Nearly Doubled*

**PROVIDENCE, RI** – Hospitals in Rhode Island provided more than \$100 million in free health care to Rhode Island’s citizens during 2004 according to “Hospital Community Benefits Report (2004),” a report released today by the Rhode Island Department of Health. The report highlighted hospitals’ commitment to maintaining access to high quality health care for all Rhode Islanders. Free care provided by hospitals is at an all time high and nearly doubled from 2001 to 2004.

Hospitals recognize the important role they possess in improving the overall health of Rhode islanders and dedicated nearly \$85 million to their efforts in 2004. This demonstrates hospitals’ commitment to bettering the community through quality health services. These activities include services aimed to limit obesity, tobacco use, substance abuse, injury and violence. Efforts also promote physical activity and immunizations.

“Hospitals recognize the unique ability they have to influence the health of our citizens,” said Edward J. Quinlan, president of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island. “Our institutions are committed to providing quality care to all patients regardless of their ability to pay. HARI members recently voluntarily increased eligibility for free care to 200% of the federal poverty level and have pledged our assistance to the Department of Health in ensuring access to health care for the uninsured.”

Founded over a half century ago, the Hospital Association of Rhode Island is a statewide trade organization that assists member hospitals in effectively meeting the health care needs of Rhode Island, through advocacy, representation, education and services. HARI members work collaboratively to improve the quality of care delivered and address issues threatening access to health care including increasing health costs, rising medical liability premiums and decreasing reimbursement. HARI members work together to ensure that all Rhode Islanders will receive comprehensive, high quality health care.

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