

**St. Luke's Hospital Topping Off  
Program**

**May 18, 2005**

Welcome     John B. Day  
                  *President & CEO*  
                  *Southcoast Health System*

Campaign Co-Chairs     Roberta Burke

                                  Carl Ribeiro

                                  Peter Bullard

                                  Gilbert Shapiro, MD

Close     John B. Day

**St. Luke's Hospital Topping Off**  
**Remarks of John B. Day**

Thank you all for coming this morning.

As you can see behind me, the New St. Luke's is nicely taking shape. It is the shape of the future of health care for the people of greater New Bedford. When this project is completed in less than two years, St. Luke's will provide the people of New Bedford with the very best Emergency Department, more patient beds and better access to surgery.

This expansion project addresses some of the most pressing health care needs of our community. We are improving access to care, giving our caregivers the very best facilities and equipment and assuring that St. Luke's is there for you, your family and your neighbors — whenever you need us.

We all know that St. Luke's is a valued and unique treasure in this community. We are the only hospital serving the people of greater New Bedford. The public puts their trust in us to provide them with superior medical care — care that is there when they need it, day or night. Our patients want the best — and we strive to deliver the best.

This morning we put the finishing touches on the skeleton of our new hospital. While this represents a physical structure, it means much more to our community. It means the people of greater New Bedford will be treated in a state-of-the-art facility — designed to meet their every need — with the best, most compassionate caregivers using today's most advanced technology. In short, taking shape behind me is the hospital of the future — a hospital that will meet today's complex health care needs and be ready to meet the many challenges of tomorrow.

After a few short remarks from our four campaign co-chairs, I will invite all of you to add your names to the I-beam behind me before we raise it into place.

It is now my pleasure to introduce the first of our campaign co-chairs, Mrs. Roberta Burke.

**St. Luke's Hospital Topping Off**  
**Remarks of Roberta Burke**

Thank you, John.

When I think about this exciting project, I think about how wonderful it will be for all of the families in our community — those mothers and fathers who come to the Emergency Department in the middle of the night with a child who is sick or injured. The ED provides peace of mind — you know you can come here, any time, if you every have a medical problem.

The St. Luke's Emergency Department is here to treat everyone — day and night, every day of the year. It's never closed — the doctors and nurses are always there to take care of you. The ED can be a chaotic place, full of drama, tension and anxiety. People come to the ED because they do not know where else to go, they feel their illness or injury is an emergency and they want to be seen right away.

The Emergency Department is convenient, yet it could be more welcoming and inviting. That's exactly what our new ED will be — a state-of-the-art place for everyone. It will be staffed with the same wonderful, knowledgeable people, only now they will have access to new technology to help make the whole process smoother. Chaos will always be a part of emergency medicine, but our new Emergency Department will help make everyone more comfortable by providing more privacy and having separate waiting areas for families.

On behalf of all those families out there — who, in the middle of the night are faced with the anxiety of taking care of a seriously ill child — I am proud to be part of building a new Emergency Department at St. Luke's that will be a treasured resource for generations to come.

It is now my pleasure to turn the podium over to Carl Ribeiro, one of my co-chairs in the Campaign for a New St. Luke's.

**St. Luke's Hospital Topping Off**  
**Remarks of Carl Ribeiro**

Thank you, Roberta.

As a business leader in greater New Bedford, having access to top-notch health care is vitally important. And we are very grateful to have the expertise of St. Luke's Hospital and the strength of the entire Southcoast Health System as cornerstones of our community.

Business is all about people. Whether you are a large employer or a small mom-and-pop shop, employees are the single greatest asset of any business. People are people after all — all with differing medical and health care needs for themselves and their families. It is imperative, as employers, that we provide the most comprehensive medical care available to our employees to assure that they remain healthy, happy and productive.

Having top-tier medical institutions like St. Luke's and Southcoast makes getting that care all that much easier. The best doctors, the best nurses and the latest procedures are available right here in our own community. There's no need to go to Boston or elsewhere for your medical care — Southcoast and St. Luke's have made sure of that. Now we are building a new facility and bringing exciting new technology to St. Luke's, further enhancing its ability to deliver world class medicine to our families, friends and co-workers.

I applaud the business community for its deep involvement in supporting and promoting this project. It is clearly a project that will have an immediate and lasting impression on all of us — and particularly on our business community. I am proud to be a part of this campaign.

It is now my pleasure to introduce Peter Bullard.

**St. Luke's Hospital Topping Off**  
**Remarks of Peter Bullard**

Thank you, Carl.

What I stand before today is incredibly impressive. And what's most impressive is that the new St. Luke's that is taking shape on this site was built out of the love and generosity of all of you — and many others. It will come to represent not just the very best in medicine, but the embodiment of what a community can do together.

For the past 121 years, St. Luke's has served greater New Bedford with distinction. The ability to provide professional, state-of-the-art health care would not have been possible without the steadfast support of countless individuals and companies since 1884. St. Luke's has benefited from your uncommon generosity — but most importantly our community has benefited from your generosity — and will for generations to come.

Recently the *Standard-Times* characterized St. Luke's as a non-traditional charity. If “traditional” is defined as an established or customary pattern of thought or action, then I would humbly suggest that the only items more “traditional” than St. Luke's is our love for Mom and apple pie. And I want to thank all of you, personally, for all you have done.

**This is the single most important community project in my lifetime. Why? Because St. Luke's touches every single family in New Bedford and our service area. Each and every one of us depends on St. Luke's, often at critical times. This project must be successful and this project will be successful — thanks to you.**

We're certainly not done yet — we have a lot more money to raise before this project is completed and filled with patients. But your commitment, desire and generosity that is turning a vision into a reality will inspire others to lend their support. So, again, thank you.

It is now my pleasure to introduce our fourth and final co-chair, Dr. Gil Shapiro.

**St. Luke's Hospital Topping Off**  
**Closing Remarks of Gilbert Shapiro, MD**

Thank you, Peter.

As a physician, nothing satisfies me more than knowing I have done everything I can for my patients. That may mean taking some extra time or it may mean thinking about a problem in a new way.

As a trustee, nothing satisfies me more than knowing we are giving the people of our community access to the very best health care anywhere.

As a physician and a trustee, nothing makes me more proud than seeing a project like the New St. Luke's being built — a project that will make St. Luke's a wonderful place for caregivers, patients and their families.

This new building will be the home of a new dimension in health care for our patients. This project will help alleviate many of the bottlenecks that have clogged our Emergency Department and caused frustrations for many — patients, staff and families. The New St. Luke's will be a modern, more efficient, more communicative hospital — one where the setting will equal the quality of medical care our doctors, nurses, techs and others provide you, your family and your neighbors.

I also thank you for your support. Support for this expansion is coming from a very wide spectrum of our community — it seems like everyone is getting involved. It is heartening to know that so many people feel the same way I do about St. Luke's — that it is a treasure we must preserve and grow to benefit all of us.

It is now my pleasure to turn the podium back to John Day.

**St. Luke's Hospital Topping Off  
Closing Remarks of John B. Day**

Thank you, Gil.

This project would not have been possible without the commitment and support from all of you here today — and many others who could not be with us this morning. This project represents a huge advancement in the health care resources for greater New Bedford. My colleague, Dr. Ron Goodspeed, could not be with us today, but on behalf of both of us — and our boards — I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for being such an important part of it. I also want to thank Barbara Mulville, our Vice President of External Affairs, and her Philanthropy team for all they have done to make this campaign a success, even in its early stages. Already Barbara has helped expand the Campaign for a New St. Luke's to new audiences and has galvanized our community in support of this project.

Now comes the fun part! Behind me is the final piece of steel that needs to be raised into place. Your support has been instrumental in making this project a reality — and now I invite you to add your name to this steel beam before we raise it into place. Following the signing of the I-beam, I invite you to join us in the White Home for a reception in honor of this project.

Again, thank you all for coming and lending your support to this important project. Please join me in signing this I-beam.

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