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**SMH to Celebrate Work-In-Progress of  
New Medical Office Building**

PLYMOUTH, N.H.--- Having broken ground in December 2008, Speare Memorial Hospital is celebrating the work-in-progress of its new medical office building under construction at Boulder Point with a ceremonial dedication on Friday, May 8 at 3 p.m.

Speare Memorial at Boulder Point is a 32,500 square foot building and will serve as the future home of: SMH Rehabilitation Services, Plymouth Orthopedics & Sports Medicine Clinic, Tenney Mountain Internal Medicine, Oliver Drug, Visiting Physicians Suite and Dr. Richards, ophthalmologist. Diagnostic support services will also be on site, including laboratory and x-ray. It is scheduled to open in early 2010, but construction is currently running two months a head of schedule.



“This project has been three years in the making,” notes SMH President/CEO Michelle McEwen, FACHE. “Our current building adjacent to the hospital, originally built in 1960, has become obsolete due to an antiquated infrastructure that is cost prohibitive to maintain. Additionally, numerous code compliance issues cannot be rectified without extensive, costly work; and our campus size prohibits the size of building we need to meet both current and future needs for our physician practices.”

McEwen further explains that the new building at Boulder Point will provide many benefits, including, expanded services, increased availability and enhanced access to services. Having a centralized location for hospital owned and affiliated practices will enable providers to operate efficiently and more cost effectively. These operational efficiencies combined with a more modern facility enhance physician recruitment. She says the new building will also increase jobs, primarily support services positions.

Funding for the new medical office building is through New Markets Tax Credit financing. It is a tool used in economic development where banks partner on projects in exchange for tax credits. Because commitments to proceed with construction of the new

building were made before the economic downturn, McEwen says, “It would have cost us more to halt or delay the project. On the positive side, construction is proceeding ahead of schedule and under budget.”

Sppeare Memorial Hospital is a 24-hour, acute care, non-profit community hospital and health care provider serving Plymouth and the communities of central New Hampshire for more than a century. Visit online at [www.sppearehospital.com](http://www.sppearehospital.com).

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