

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### SMH Celebrates Reasons for the Season

PLYMOUTH, N.H.--- A decorated tree is the eternal symbol of the winter holiday season, and several can be found throughout the halls of Speare Memorial Hospital. But one tree in particular represents something more.



The *Caring Lights* tree adorning the hospital's main entrance upstairs atrium stands for reflection and remembrance, as well as caring, sharing and celebration. The 35 red and silver ornaments each feature a name in memory of people who have passed at Speare during the year. A paper chain garland made of 176 links celebrates all the babies born at Speare (as of December 7). There are 56,506 silver beads to recognize all the people who have been cared for at Speare, and 1,000 caring lights to symbolize the 445 employees, 1,000 volunteers, 12 board members and 374 donors.

The idea for the *Caring Lights* tree came from SMH's Director of Social Services Kathy Wieliczko. "I had been wanting to do a memory tree, and as I was sharing my vision with others around the hospital the scope of the tree grew. We've gotten many positive comments and thank yous from patients and family members. It truly is a wonderful tribute to why we are here—for our community."

### Middle School Students Deck the Halls

Adding to the festive feel of the holiday season at Speare Memorial Hospital are the lights, garland and snowflakes festooning the hospital's main entrance lobby. The decorations were the work of sixth, seventh and eighth graders from Plymouth Elementary School. "The students did a great job brightening up our main lobby," notes SMH Student and Volunteer Services Coordinator Jennifer Oldenburg. "It is a great example of how we can partner with students for the benefit of patients and families."



## **PRHS Operation Teddy Bear**

Mike Mignanelli, class president for Plymouth Regional High School's Class of 2012, and adviser Denise McGlone, delivered 50 teddy bears to Speare Memorial Hospital as part of



the students annual Operation Teddy Bear. Bears are given to children and, other patients as needed, throughout the year to provide a bit of extra comfort during their hospital stay.

Speare 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.spearehospital.com](http://www.spearehospital.com) or join us on Facebook.

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