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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**NDH Foundation's Starlight Ball a Huge Success**

**Rhinebeck, NY...**The sky cleared on June 14<sup>th</sup> just in time for the arrival of guests at NDH Foundation's 9<sup>th</sup> annual Starlight Ball, which was held under elegant tents at the Dutchess Country Fairgrounds. Over four hundred guests were on hand to honor and recognize the honorees: The Frost Family, longstanding and generous supporters of Northern Dutchess Hospital; Judith McMichael, RN, a fifty-year veteran of nursing; David Tuller, DO, a prominent family practitioner, now retired; and Mildred Young, a former Hospital Board member instrumental in raising funds for Northern Dutchess Hospital's first ICU/CCU wing and the Neugarten Birth Center. The event was graciously co-chaired by James and Judy Closs and Dr. John and Mary Jo Sabia and raised over \$100,000 for NDH Foundation.

The event featured a dramatic and romantic French theme with a bit of whimsical "Moulin Rouge" touches. Event goers enjoyed an electric live band, a cabaret act, and a performance by local dancers led by Abby Saxton, who lit the stage on fire with their French-inspired routine, culminating with a full can-can dance! A French-inspired menu was expertly prepared by renowned catering company, Abigail Kirsch Culinary Productions, based in New York City. Food and spirits flowed all evening and after dinner, guests enjoyed a fine art auction, French-themed gaming tables and exquisite chocolates, compliments of Samuel's of Rhinebeck.

The room's décor was incredible. Flowers included stunning arrangements that filled the cocktail area to welcome guests, compliments of Bella Fiore of Rhinebeck, vibrant-colored hydrangea centerpieces compliments of EA Coon & Company Florist, sprays of lavender roses that adorned the stage, compliments of Floral Fantasies by Sara, and incredible potted plants "loaned" to the event from Mac's Agway in Red Hook and Wonderland Florist in Rhinebeck. The scope of the work by the decorating committee combined with the efforts of so many local businesses, added to the elegant ambiance of the night and set the tone for an extraordinary evening.

"The event maintained an incredible energy throughout the entire evening!" says Deborah Breen, Executive Director of the NDH Foundation. "What I love most about the Starlight Ball is the extraordinary community support it inspires. So many people and

businesses come together to make this not only a significant fundraiser for NDH Foundation, but also, to make it an evening to remember for the honorees, and all of the guests.”

NDH Foundation is a not-for-profit foundation whose mission is to encourage philanthropic support for both Northern Dutchess Hospital and The Thompson House. The Starlight Ball is just one of several fundraising events hosted by NDH Foundation.

Northern Dutchess Hospital, a Health Quest affiliate, is a 68-bed, acute care hospital located in Rhinebeck, NY. The Health Quest system includes Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie and Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel.

To view photos of the event or for more information about any of Northern Dutchess Hospital's services, log on to [www.health-quest.org](http://www.health-quest.org) or call 876-3001.

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*Pictured in front, Denise George, President and CEO of NDH, toasts with Dan Hickey, Chairman of the NDH Board, Sue Crane, 1<sup>st</sup> VP of the NDH Foundation Board, Judy and James Closs, event co-chairs, and Dr. John Sabia, event co-chair.*

*Also part of the toast but not pictured are: Dr. George Verrilli, Chairman NDH Foundation, MaryJo Sabia, event co-chair, Dr. Robert Rosenzweig, President of NDH Medical Staff, Michael Weber, President and CEO of Health Quest, Tom Eastwood, Chairman of Health Quest Board, Ann Armater, VP of Development for Health Quest and Deborah Breen, Executive Director of NDH Foundation.*