

May 3, 2010
For Immediate Release

Contact: Ruth Maus
785/233-9780, ext. 330

**“Gifts That Change Lives” Campaign
Chaired by Retired CFO and Wife**

(Topeka, KS) The Board of Directors of the Marian Clinic is pleased to announce that **Vernon and Sharon Long** will serve as honorary co-chairs of the upcoming Marian Clinic “Gifts That Change Lives” Campaign. Vernon was the longtime Chief Financial Officer of Stormont-Vail HealthCare, Inc.; Sharon is a homemaker, community volunteer, and former long-time employee of Assumption and Mater Dei parish. The campaign hopes to raise \$220,000 to support the Marian Clinic’s mission of providing medical and dental care to those who have no health insurance and live below the federal poverty level. Other community volunteers and local business representatives will assist with the five-month campaign.

The Marian Clinic was founded over 22 years ago by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System. It is a place where no one is turned away for an inability to pay. Over 200 doctors, dentists, nurses, and others generously support the Clinic by *volunteering* their direct patient care. In addition, hospitals and social service agencies provide medical equipment and supplies, laboratory, x-ray, and hospital services for Marian Clinic patients. Funding comes from government grants, philanthropic organizations, and patient revenues based on ability to pay, however a large portion of the Clinic’s budget depends on the generosity of friends in the public for support. During 2009 the Clinic treated over **5,200 patients with more than 17,000 visits and provided, at no charge, medications valued at over \$520,000**. The need continues to grow, with the number of patients in 2010 already running well above last year.

According to Vernon Long, “The Marian Clinic occupies a special, very necessary niche of health care providers in this community. It truly does change lives, serving so many who would otherwise have nowhere to turn. Sharon and I are very proud to be associated with this effort and encourage everyone to respond with generosity so that those in the community with need can receive the care they deserve.”

Donations for the Marian Clinic may be sent to Marian Clinic, 1001 SW Garfield, Topeka, KS 66604, or via the secure website at www.marianclinic.org. Through the kindness of donors, the Marian Clinic is able to be a place of welcome, comfort, hope, and healing.
