



**For Immediate Release
December 2, 2009**

Annual Lights of Love Tree Lighting Ceremony to be held Thursday, December 3rd

(Washington, NC) – Beaufort County Medical Center will celebrate its annual Lights of Love tree-lighting ceremony on Thursday, December 3rd at 6 p.m. on the Medical Center campus.

The celebration will feature musical entertainment by the Washington Montessori School Violinists and St. John Church of Christ Choir. There will be a special appearance by Santa Claus and children will have the opportunity to share their Christmas wishes and have their picture taken with him free of charge.

Part of the Lights of Love tradition is the annual children's art contest. Each year, Beaufort County students from kindergarten-through-fifth grade are invited to participate in the Lights of Love Art Contest. Prizes are awarded for first, second and third place winners from each grade.

One piece of art selected from among the winners will be featured on the hospital Christmas card the next year. Contest drawings are displayed along the hospital's main corridor throughout the month of December.

Lights of Love was established in 1986 as a means for members of the community to celebrate or remember a loved one during the holiday season. Today, Lights of Love is a year-round project that allows generations of individuals and families to give back to Beaufort County Medical Center while commemorating a variety of creative and traditional events. Donations to *Lights of Love* are used to fund projects that promote health care education, improve community wellness, support and enhance patient care, and provide amenities that make our hospital more comfortable for patients and visitors.

The Lights of Love Tree Lighting ceremony is open to the public.

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