Mercy Health – Cincinnati announces that a $16 million investment from the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati to The Jewish Hospital, which Mercy Health purchased in 2010, will help grow the Graduate Medical Education (GME) program and expand the Emergency Department at the nation’s oldest Jewish hospital.

The partnership between Greater Cincinnati’s Jewish philanthropic foundation and the Catholic healthcare system will extend the legacy of care at The Jewish Hospital, which was founded in 1850 to care for the Jewish community in Cincinnati and was the first hospital of its kind in the country.

The Mercy Health Foundation will work with other partners to match up to $6 million for the GME program. The $22 million overall investment will be the largest private gift in the history of Mercy Health, formerly called Catholic Health Partners.

“When the Jewish Foundation decided six years ago that the Jewish Hospital should be sold, it was very important that we find a partner that would ensure that the hospital maintained and strengthened its commitment to excellent health care — and Mercy Health has been that partner,” said Jewish Foundation Chairman Michael R. Oestreicher. “Mercy Health has not only honored The Jewish Hospital’s name, traditions and brand, its investment in the hospital’s growth and expansion will help it continue its historic role as a first-class teaching hospital.”

The Jewish Hospital will use $10 million to help expand the Emergency Department. The new ED will occupy the first floor of a new tower at Galbraith and Kenwood roads that is already under construction and should be complete in 2016.

The Jewish Foundation sold the hospital to Mercy Health in 2010 and Mercy Health committed to invest $75 million to improve the building and expand the GME program. Since then, the two organizations have worked closely together, with Mercy Health investing more than $50 million in capital and technology and another $75 million for the current expansion.

“This sustaining The Jewish Hospital as a leader in clinical innovation helps our patients and the communities we serve,“ said Michael Connelly, president and chief executive officer of Mercy Health. “We treasure our role as stewards of the historic legacy of The Jewish Hospital that extends back to 1850 and we are thrilled to be a partner with the Jewish Foundation in extending that legacy.”

This donation will enable The Jewish Hospital to offer all-private patient rooms, adding more than 140,000 square feet in the new five-story tower. The new building also will include inpatient ICU services, orthopaedic and neurology services, comprehensive cancer care services, including the Blood Cancer Center, a nationally recognized bone-marrow transplant unit and blood cancer treatment center, and the Liver and Pancreas Center.

The new campus also will house an expanded GME program and Mercy Health will try to double the GME endowment to $12 million by 2020. Participation of Jewish students and residents from Israel and
other countries will remain a focus but the program will expand as the new space enables the GME to fill more of its federally approved residency slots. The donation comes through the Mercy Health Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Mercy Health.

“Mercy Health Foundation shares the determination of the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati to continue to build on the 164-year history of The Jewish Hospital as a leader in healthcare programs and innovation,” said Foundation President Roger LaGreca.