



**BON SECOURS**  
**ST. FRANCIS HEALTH SYSTEM**

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## **Valinda Rutledge Resigns as CEO of Bon Secours St. Francis Health System**

**Greenville, SC (July 23, 2009)** – Valinda Rutledge, chief executive officer of Bon Secours St. Francis Health System, announces today her resignation to become effective September 8, 2009.

“This has been one of the most difficult decisions of my career,” said Mrs. Rutledge. “I truly love St. Francis and the incredible health team that I have been honored to lead for the last six years. The people and the experiences here at St. Francis have transformed me both as a person and as a leader.”

Mrs. Rutledge has accepted the position of President and CEO for CaroMont Health System in Gastonia, North Carolina. CaroMont Health is an independent, private, not-for-profit system comprised of Gaston Memorial Hospital, Courtland Terrace skilled nursing facility, CaroMont Medical Group, and other medical services in Gaston County and the surrounding area.

Milestones of Ms. Rutledge’s leadership since joining the St. Francis system in 2003, include the current Governor’s Award for Quality, obtaining top national levels in both patient and physician satisfaction, implementing one of the most comprehensive electronic medical record systems in the region, and the launch of a third campus, ST. FRANCIS millennium.

Mrs. Rutledge adds that her most meaningful achievement is that the St. Francis family is consistently recognized for fulfilling their mission through the quality of care and compassion delivered every day to the community and to each patient.

Mrs. Rutledge will remain with St. Francis through September 8, 2009. John Shea, senior vice president for sponsorship at Bon Secours Charity Health System in New York, will serve as interim CEO while Bon Secours moves through their CEO search process.

### **About Bon Secours St. Francis Health System**

Visit the St. Francis website at [www.stfrancishealth.org](http://www.stfrancishealth.org)

Bon Secours St. Francis Health System provides high quality, technologically advanced health care—and is dedicated to bringing compassion to patient care and ‘good help’ to those in need. St. Francis currently has more than 700 physicians on its medical staff covering a range of nearly 20 subspecialties on two main campuses: St. Francis Downtown and St. Francis Eastside. The St. Francis Institute for Chronic Health, the first facility at its new third campus, opens in August.