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**Overlake Hospital Medical Center Receives
“Community Health Leadership Award”**
Hospital Association Recognizes Outstanding Work

Overlake Hospital Medical Center’s Senior Care program has been honored with the Washington State Hospital Association’s 2006 Health Leadership Award.

Senior Care closes the gaps in the safety net for seniors. It is a multifaceted program that brings together the various programs that are available through Overlake Hospital Medical Center, Eastside physicians, and community organizations. Senior Care promotes older adults’ health, independence and participation in their own health care decisions.

Awardees are chosen by the Washington State Hospital Association’s Governing Boards Committee, made up of hospital trustees and commissioners from across the state. The Committee praised Overlake’s work in addressing the health care needs of the growing population of aging adults. “The work being done by Overlake Hospital is amazing. For 18 years the hospital done a tremendous job of identifying the holes in care and bringing together the community to get those needs met,” said Robb Menaul, Senior Vice President, Washington State Hospital Association.

Senior Care was recognized for its achievement in:

- Discovering gaps in care and new opportunities through patient interviews, alliances with long-term care providers and a 2006 environmental analysis;
- Creating special classes and support groups to assist family members who give care to frail elders;
- Engaging physicians, who made 800 referrals to Senior Care in just the first seven months of this year for additional help for their senior patients.

WSHA and its Hospital Governing Boards Committee gives the Community Health Leadership Award every year. The award recognizes organizations that have gone outside their four walls to identify and serve broad community health needs in an exemplary manner.

Leo Greenawalt, president of the Washington State Hospital Association, said, “Senior Care is the kind of program that makes Washington state hospitals so special. As the population of the state ages, Senior Care will be an invaluable model for other communities.”

Previous award winners include Spokane’s Shriners Hospital for Children, Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, Mason Matters, and the Palouse Alliance for Healthy Individuals, Families, and Communities.

The Washington State Hospital Association represents all of Washington’s 97 community hospitals. The association takes a major leadership role in issues that affect delivery, quality, accessibility, affordability and continuity of health care. It works to improve the health status of the residents of Washington state.

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