

# News Release

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## **AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center Atlantic City Campus to break ground on seven-story patient tower**

***\$98 million, 198,000-square-foot addition  
largest in ARMC history***

AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center (ARMC) will make history on Wednesday, September 7 when it officially breaks ground on the largest expansion/renovation project in its 107-year history. The \$98 million investment in the Atlantic City campus will feature a new seven-story patient tower, the renovation of 23,000 feet of existing hospital space and construction of a pedestrian bridge from Caesars Atlantic City's parking garage. The project is scheduled for completion early 2008.

AtlantiCare and ARMC executives, ARMC Board members, state and local officials, members of the community and employees will perform the traditional shovel dig in a 6' x 12' sandbox, underscoring ARMC's unique beach resort location. Adding to the festivities will be a nearly three-ton sand sculpture of the new expansion created by Atlantic City Fire Department Captain and professional sand sculptor John Gowdy.

Features of the new seven-story, 198,000 square foot patient tower include a new emergency department (ED) with its own diagnostic imaging suite; a new behavioral health area in the ED; a new radiology department; a new intensive care unit (ICU) with 26 private rooms; two new medical surgical floors, each of which will have 30 private inpatient suites; a new rooftop helipad with trauma stabilization rooms on the roof that connect directly to the ED by elevator; and two floors designed for future expansion and/or relocation of existing services. The capital improvement project also includes renovation of 23,000 square feet of existing hospital space and construction of a pedestrian bridge from Caesars Atlantic City's new parking garage into the second floor of the hospital, with a grand staircase and elevators to the new lobby.

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(ARMC City campus to break ground on new patient tower – add one)

“This is a remarkable and exciting day in Atlantic City's history,” said David Tilton, ARMC president and CEO. “AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center's \$98 million investment in the Atlantic City campus will allow us to provide improved services and expanded capabilities as we meet the growing needs of our community and the millions of tourists who visit Atlantic City each year. We are grateful for the support we have received from the city, state and federal government, as well as the community, to help ARMC advance our mission to serve the sick, injured and poor.”

“Our staff is extremely excited about the new and enhanced services we will be able to offer our patients and the community,” said Margaret Belfield, administrator of ARMC’s Atlantic City campus. “When completed, the new patient tower will give them the opportunity to continue to provide the exceptional level of quality care our patients deserve, in a more spacious, comfortable, patient-centered environment.”

The project manager for the expansion project is Granary Associates, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. LF Driscoll Company, of Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, is the construction manager. The architect is Granary Associates Architects, P.C., of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and the associate architect is SOSH Architects of Atlantic City.

The three-ton sand sculpture of the new expansion, Atlantic City Fire Department Captain John Gowdy will create in less than two days, will be on display during the history-making groundbreaking ceremony. A firefighter in Atlantic City since 1980, Gowdy has competed in professional sand sculpting competitions throughout the world since 1990. He has won national and international titles in Italy, Canada, France and the United States. His list of clients includes the “Travel Channel,” “Martha Stewart Living,” the “Discovery Channel,” the Las Vegas Convention Center, Save the Children Foundation, the Philadelphia Flower Show and Atlantic City casinos. Gowdy and his work have been featured on numerous television programs, including NBC’s “Today” show.

Gowdy studied painting at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, but when it comes to sand sculpting, he considers himself a self-taught artist. He has created sand sculptures as novel as a slice of pizza for a pizza expo, to an emotional sculpture of a soldier in the midst of the D-Day invasion of Normandy for a competition in France.

The Atlantic City campus expansion will also feature a Healing Arts design, a feature AtlantiCare first implemented with the expansion of ARMC’s Mainland campus, which opened in June. Design of the expansion will be based in part on the role healing arts play in patient care and comfort. AtlantiCare has made a commitment to dedicate one percent of all new building costs to integrating the arts into the care environment, in response to

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(ARMC City campus to break ground on new patient tower – add two)

surveys that show the arts contribute to the healing process. Through ARMC's Healing Arts Program, donors will have the opportunity to sponsor art as a new option for contributing to the AtlantiCare Foundation, which raises funds for ARMC programs and services.

### **ARMC History and Background**

AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center (ARMC) is a 567-bed, not-for-profit, hospital that was founded in 1898 in Atlantic City. The hospital began as a 10-bed facility in a converted home on Ohio Avenue in Atlantic City. ARMC has two campuses -- the Atlantic City campus, where the hospital was founded; and the Mainland campus, which opened in 1975 and is located in Pomona, New Jersey, one of the state's fastest growing residential and commercial areas.

ARMC is a safety net hospital serving the 35,000 residents and 35 million visitors of Atlantic City. ARMC is the sole provider of hospital care in Atlantic City and provides 94 percent of the charity care delivered in Atlantic County, which amounted to more than \$30 million in 2003. This is more than the charity care provided by the 10 nearest hospitals combined.

ARMC is one of the elite hospitals nationwide to achieve the J.D. Power and Associates Distinguished Hospital designation for providing an outstanding patient experience two years in a row (2004 and 2005). ARMC became the 105<sup>th</sup> hospital in the nation to be designated a nurse Magnet <sup>TM</sup> hospital in March 2004.

The Society of Chest Pain Centers (SCPC) granted the designation of Accredited Chest Pain Center to ARMC Mainland and Atlantic City campuses in 2004, making them the first and second accredited Chest Pain Centers in New Jersey, and the 59<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> in the nation.

ARMC's Atlantic City campus is home to the region's only state-designated Level II Trauma Center. The third busiest trauma center in the state, ARMC recently experienced its busiest month in its history of service to the community. The Trauma team cared for 216 people in July, the highest number for one month since the Center opened in 1991.

### **About AtlantiCare**

AtlantiCare is an integrated healthcare system dedicated to transforming healthcare at the regional level by providing higher quality health and wellness services. AtlantiCare includes AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, the AtlantiCare Foundation, AtlantiCare Health Services, AtlantiCare Health Plans, AtlantiCare Behavioral Health (ABH) and InfoShare. The region's largest healthcare organization and largest non-casino employer, AtlantiCare's more than 4,000 employees serve the community in more than 60 locations. AtlantiCare and its business units are governed by boards comprised of more than 70 volunteer community leaders. A not-for-profit organization, AtlantiCare's focus is to serve the community as a provider of health and wellness services.