

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:
Matt E. Hartzler, MBA, CHE
Office 303.651.5026
Cell 303.961.0425
mhartzler@luhcares.org

**PLANETREE HONORS LONGMONT UNITED HOSPITAL EMPLOYEE WITH
SPIRIT OF PLANETREE AWARD**

Longmont, CO — Peggy Arnold, PrestigePLUS Program Coordinator, was named a recipient of the 2006 Spirit of Planetree Award, recognizing her personal embodiment of Longmont United Hospital's patient-centered approach to providing care. In conjunction with the 2006 Planetree Annual Conference held October 11-13 in San Diego, CA, the Award was presented by Planetree President Susan Frampton at a special ceremony in front of an audience of over 600 individuals representing Planetree institutions across the United States, Canada and Europe.

Conceived of by a patient nearly 30 years ago, the Planetree model of delivering care is one that prioritizes patient comfort, dignity, empowerment and well-being. Longmont United Hospital began its Planetree journey in 2000 and today is one of over 100 hospitals, long-term care facilities, and outpatient clinics that comprise the Planetree Membership Network.

“Every day, in her interactions with older adults, service providers in the community, and fellow employees, Peggy exemplifies Planetree,” said Sharon Rominger, Chief Nursing Officer and Director of Quality Improvements. “It is only fitting that she be recognized with this prestigious national award. In recognizing Peggy, Planetree and Longmont United Hospital are also paying tribute to the dedication and compassion demonstrated by all our caregivers, day in and day out.”

Peggy has been with Longmont United Hospital for five years. She has an M.A. in Counseling and a background as a social worker, educational researcher, teacher, massage therapist and personal historian. In her role with PrestigePLUS, Longmont United Hospital's senior wellness program, Peggy is able to develop programs that span the continuum from conventional medicine to alternative healing arts. She also consults with older adults on a variety of issues related to advance planning. She has been actively involved in community efforts related to healthy aging, such as the Strategic Visioning Coordinating Team for Aging Well in Boulder Co, the End-of-Life Coalition, Folks in Aging, Hospice Grief and Education Center Advisory Board, and intergenerational program with a local middle school and the Interfaith Conference on Caregiving.

— MORE —

Peggy was one of 52 recipients of the 2006 Spirit of Planetree Award. Also recognized were eleven programs/initiatives implemented at Planetree institutions across the world that represent extraordinary achievement in each of Planetree's ten components of patient-centered care. Past recipients of the Spirit of Planetree Award from Longmont United Hospital include 2003 Sharon Rominger, 2004 Carol Anne Doehner, and 2005 Judy Fisher.

About Longmont United Hospital

Longmont United Hospital is a full service, community hospital with specialty areas in Women's & Children's Services, Cardiology, Comprehensive Surgical Services, Cancer Care, Emergency and Trauma Services, Transitional Care and Acute Medical Services. It offers quality inpatient and outpatient health care services in addition to 24 hour emergency department services. The Emergency Department is a Level III trauma center that treats approximately 26,000 patients each year.

A full spectrum of cardiac care - from diagnosis to open heart surgery – is offered at Longmont United Hospital. In 2006 the hospital began offering Minimally Invasive Ablation, a new treatment for atrial fibrillation. Other services include cardiac catheterization, angioplasty, cardiac stents, pacemakers and defibrillators, stress testing, telemetry, echocardiology, atherectomy, and interventional radiology. There is also a specialized cardiac rehabilitation program, including an on-site fitness facility.

Comprehensive Orthopedic Services are also available including the latest surgical procedures of total joint replacements, Charite'™ Artificial Disc surgery, and kyphoplasty for vertebral compression fractures. Diagnostic equipment is state-of-the-art, including MRI/CAT, digital x-ray, and electrodiagnostics. Pre-operative Total Joint Classes are offered to the community. Physical therapy and rehabilitation are available at an on-site fitness center complete with a warm water therapy pool.

About Planetree

Founded in 1978 by a patient in San Francisco, today Planetree is an internationally recognized leader in the growing movement to transform the health care experience by considering health care facilities, processes and protocols from the perspective of the patient.

###