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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EXCELA HEALTH DONATING RESCUE TRUCK
TO MOUNT PLEASANT TOWNSHIP**

MOUNT PLEASANT, PA, August 24, 2012 ... Excelsa Health continues its longstanding commitment to the Mount Pleasant community by supporting emergency response. The health system is donating a Dodge Durango rescue truck to Mount Pleasant Township. The vehicle will become the property of the township Dec. 1, and is expected to be used as an additional response unit for volunteers at Kecksburg's ambulance company.

In addition to donating the sport utility vehicle to the township, Excelsa is helping township leaders stabilize emergency response there by:

- pairing the township with an EMS consultant to streamline their workflow so they can adequately serve the community.
- assisting with the recruitment of additional volunteer paramedics.
- brokering coverage arrangements between the township and borough.

In 1976, Mount Pleasant community leaders partnered with Frick Hospital to purchase the region's first emergency response unit capable of providing advanced life support. The truck, known as Medic 930, was not an ambulance, rather a sport utility vehicle manned by hospital paramedics who would drive to emergency scenes to assist on a call if necessary. Over the years, the community paid for gasoline, while the hospital went on to purchase new response vehicles, and employ Medic 930 staff. Those paramedics were called upon to assist Mount Pleasant's own volunteer ambulance company and others on serious calls, and also care for patients inside Frick's Emergency Department.

One year ago, Mount Pleasant's EMS company, staffed by volunteer EMT's, established its own 24 hour paramedic service. Since then, Medic 930's call volume has substantially decreased, sometimes to as few as one or two calls each day.

"Rather than let the rescue truck sit idle, we believe it should be used to support first responder efforts elsewhere in the community," said Jennifer Miele, Excelsa Health's Vice President of Marketing and Communications. "Our donation means the precious financial resources available in the township need not be tapped for this purpose."

The five paramedics assigned to the unit will move into other staffing positions at Excelsa Health.

"We are always looking for ways to improve the care we provide, all the while keeping a close eye on health care costs," said Miele. "The news isn't new: government financial support for our industry continues to decrease. That means we have to find a balance and dedicated leaders in Mt. Pleasant have always helped us find that balance. Together we continue to identify ways to meet current needs."