

TO MEDIA:

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**EXCELA HEALTH FOUNDATIONS CO-SPONSOR
NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PATIENT SAFETY ADVOCATE;
SORREL KING TO SHARE *JOSIE'S STORY: A MOTHER'S INSPIRING CRUSADE
TO MAKE MEDICAL CARE SAFE***

GREENSBURG, PA, February 24, 2010 ... Excelsa Health's foundations and medical executive committee put patient safety in the spotlight as co-sponsors of a public presentation by nationally recognized patient safety advocate Sorrel King.

Frequent lecturer and author, Mrs. King will share *Josie's Story*, 6:30 p.m., March 24, Fred Rogers Center, Saint Vincent College, as part of Excelsa Health community education programming. The event is co-sponsored by Latrobe Area Hospital Charitable Foundation and Westmoreland/Frick Hospital Foundation with support from Excelsa Health's Medical Executive Committee.

The heart-wrenching tale begins in 2001, when 18-month-old Josie King died from medical errors. Badly burned by a faulty water heater in the family's new home, Josie was taken to the world-renowned Johns Hopkins Hospital, where she made a remarkable recovery. But, as she was preparing to leave, communications between medical staff and family broke down. Josie was given a fatal injection of methadone, sending her into cardiac arrest. Within 48 hours, the King family went from celebrating a homecoming to planning a funeral.

Josie's mother, Sorrel King, has made it her mission to ensure others don't experience this same loss. Born out of tragedy, the Josie King Foundation focuses attention on patient safety and the prevention of

medical errors. By uniting health care providers and consumers, and funding innovative safety programs, the Foundation hopes to create a culture of patient safety, together.

Nearly 98,000 people die every year from medical errors, making it one of the leading causes of death in the United States. Hearing Josie's story will remind everyone in the audience that safe and quality health care requires each of us to be informed and engaged in the healing process.

Continuing medical education (CME) credit is available for physicians.

Reservations are requested by Friday, March 19, to Excelsa Health's Call Center, 1-877-771-1234. A book signing will follow the presentation with a portion of the proceeds benefiting The Josie King Foundation. Reserve copies when registering.