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**CUTLINE: Gary Moidel, manager, Food and Nutrition Services, Frick Hospital, serves ice-cold milk in recyclable containers.**

**GOT MILK? FRICK FOOD SERVICE RECYCLING PROJECT  
STAFF AND PATIENT PLEASER**

**MOUNT PLEASANT, PA, February 2, 2010** ... Every year, millions of plastic milk bottles are needlessly discarded and end up in landfills. In an effort to support recycling efforts while enhancing patient services, Food and Nutrition Services at Excela Health Frick Hospital has partnered with the Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association and TerraCycle, Inc.

In November 2009, the hospital introduced a bottled milk product to its menu option and began providing recycling bins for these bottles in the food service areas. "With the availability of this product, not only can we divert packaging waste from going to landfills but we can help to create consumer awareness about environmental responsibility by encouraging people to re-think what is waste," noted Gary Moidel, Frick Hospital food services manager. "This particular recycling program features the 8-ounce milk bottles that are used in the hospital cafeteria and hospitality shop, and on patient trays."

"The patients are pleased because they are easier to open than the paper cartons," said Moidel. "We like them because our handling of the milk has improved. We do not have any 'leakers' in the cooler any more. We have not had any milk in bottles spoil prior to the recommended use-by date. This

happened too often with the cartons. And the recycling program is a way for us to recoup an added expense for each serving.”

For each recycled bottle the hospital receives a 2-cent rebate, with proceeds from the collection returned to the Frick Hospital Foundation for future patient care needs. Approximately 1,800 bottles have been gathered over the past two months. Once returned to TerraCycle, the bottles are sterilized, cleaned and ready for reuse – this time outside the food service industry.

Internationally, more than 8 million people have participated in TerraCycle’s various recycling programs. Approximately 1.2 billion waste units have been collected. Through recycled waste, TerraCycle makes nearly 150 different types of reusable products. In addition, through the rebate incentive, the company has given back more than a quarter of a million dollars to the charitable organizations participating in their programs.

“This project is a win, win for all parties involved,” commented Moidel. “The best part is that we were able to change things that have benefited patients directly in making their experience with our hospital as comfortable as possible as, well as impacting the environment.”