



Media Contact: Rob Seman
Public Relations Coordinator
973-660-3145
Robert.Seman@atlanticealth.org

Atlantic Health
P.O. Box 1905
Morristown, NJ 07962-1905

For Immediate Release

ATLANTIC HEALTH IS NO. 1 ON AARP'S HOSPITAL LIST FOR "BEST EMPLOYERS FOR WORKERS OVER 50"

MORRISTOWN, NJ SEPTEMBER 9, 2009 - AARP today announced that Atlantic Health, the parent company of Morristown Memorial Hospital and Overlook Hospital, is the top company in its new hospitals-health care list of Best Employers for Workers over 50.

Wednesday's announcement is the fourth time that AARP has recognized Atlantic Health, which previously occupied prominent positions on the organization's overall "Best Employers for Workers Over 50." Last year, Atlantic Health took honors as the only hospital system in the tri-state area on the list and in 2007 was the highest-ranked hospital system from New Jersey. This year, AARP created a specific list for hospitals and health care organizations, in which Atlantic Health ranked No. 1.

"AARP has decided to set up a separate health care and hospitals honor roll this year to acknowledge efforts in the health care field to creatively deal with shortages in qualified workers," explained Deborah Russell, AARP's Director of Workforce Issues. "They have set a standard in meeting the needs of an age-diverse workforce," she added.

Atlantic Health operates Morristown Memorial Hospital and Overlook Hospital, which include several specialized centers and facilities, including the Gagnon Cardiovascular Institute, Carol G. Simon Cancer Centers, Atlantic Neuroscience Institute, Atlantic Rehabilitation Institute and Goryeb Children's Hospital and Goryeb Children's Center. The organization has more than 9,000 employees.

"As the national conversation about health care grows louder and more prevalent, there is a renewed focus on who will provide that vital service," said Andrew Kovach, vice president of Human Resources, and Chief Administrative Officer, Atlantic Health. "At Atlantic Health, we have always looked toward the future, and have understood that meeting the needs of our patients requires that we tap into the skills, experience, and knowledge of our 50+ work force. We have taken great efforts to recognize, preserve and cultivate the experience and wisdom that they bring to our organization."

More than a third of Atlantic Health's employees are age 50 or older, and those employees are employed at Atlantic Health for an average of about 15 years. The company employs nearly 2,000 retirees who are offered a variety of work options, such as temporary work assignments, consulting and contract work, telecommuting, and part-time work.

(more)

THE PASSION TO LEAD

Atlantic Health offers a variety of flexible work arrangements that appeal to aged 50 and over workers including compressed schedules, variable shifts, job sharing, telecommuting and seasonal work. Post-retirement employment is provided under the auspices of the "1000 Hour Club", with retirees working at Atlantic Health as many as 999 hours each year without losing their retirement benefits. "Focus on Your Financial Future" events – free workshops – provide information on retirement planning, Social Security benefits, pension plans, investment planning debt management, and education savings plans. On-site certified financial counselors are available on site daily as well. Atlantic Health also recognizes that even though employed, employees might have some financial concerns due to the recent economic downturn. Atlantic Health has offered its employees additional free workshops for coping with financial stress and sessions on financial planning.

In addition to offering on-site child care centers and child care for children and grandchildren of employees, Atlantic Health also offers emergency backup childcare and eldercare in which employees will receive reimbursement for at-home caregivers.

Atlantic Health has an elaborate wellness program that encourages employees to maintain a personal profile through questionnaires that focus in part on cardiac, cancer, nutrition, exercise and stress issues. A confidential health summary that includes suggestions for improvements is provided to employees. Employees have an option of lab work, and suggestions follow for improvements or further follow up with physicians. As an incentive, a variety of prizes is offered for a number of those who complete the wellness profile. Last year, more than 2,000 employees participated. An aggressive ergonomics program has been instituted in recent years, with more than 1,000 evaluations done with nurses and other employees at their work stations. Physical accommodations frequently have been made as a result.

"We are pleased that AARP has taken notice of the relationship we have with our older workforce in years past," Kovach added. "This year, being named the AARP's top rated health care employer for workers over 50 is an even greater honor, and we hope it brings a new light to the accomplishments of our 50+ workforce and the daily contributions they make to Atlantic Health, our hospitals, and our patients."

To read more about why AARP selected Atlantic Health as a "Best Employer for Workers Over 50," visit: http://www.aarp.org/money/work/best_employers/articles/atlantic_health_2009.html.

For more information on Atlantic Health, visit www.atlantichealth.org.

###