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Neil Gifford
Public Relations
Office: (765) 751-2572
Cell: (765) 744-3151
ngifford@chsmail.org

For Immediate Release:

Medical Helicopter to be stationed exclusively in Muncie

MUNCIE - Ball Memorial Hospital and Life Air have reached an agreement that will result in a medical helicopter being stationed in Muncie, full time.

“For the Emergency Services offered to East Central Indiana, this will be a welcome addition,” said William Gossett, EMS Coordinator, Ball Memorial Hospital. “A medical helicopter stationed exclusively in Muncie extends the reach and the benefit of the Emergency Department at BMH.”

Beginning this spring, Life Air will provide Air Ambulance services to the Muncie community and be stationed in Muncie, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The benefits of having a medical helicopter stationed in Muncie greatly improves response times and support for patients to be brought to BMH or to trauma centers in Fort Wayne or Indianapolis.

“In East Central Indiana Ball Memorial Hospital is truly a regional healthcare provider,” said Michael Haley, President and CEO, Ball Memorial Hospital. “Providing a medical helicopter that can cover a wide geographic area and bring patients to BMH safely and quickly to receive the care they need has the potential to save lives and improve the quality of care for those individuals.”

The helicopter’s primary base will be at Muncie’s Delaware County Regional Airport. Mike Lynn, Executive Director, for Delaware County Airport Authority says the announcement benefits the regional economy as well since Life Air has hired locally for some positions.

“Currently, the cost to maintain the air traffic control tower at the airport is shared between the FAA and the regional community,” Lynn said. “The benefit to having the helicopter here is that the increase in the number of flights will help the airport build air traffic figures. The higher volume of flights we have, the larger percentage of control tower costs the FAA will pay from year to year, reducing local costs. A medical

helicopter based here will benefit the community medical services while helping to maintain a high level of air traffic control services in the region.”

Medical helicopters must be affiliated with a specific hospital. Life Air will be affiliated with BMH and Dr. Jan Kornilow will serve as Medical Director for Life Air in Indiana.

“Life Air is a top notch organization and we’ve been impressed by the commitment and professionalism they’ve displayed since our first meeting,” Dr. Kornilow said. “They will bring an advanced level of medical flight experience to East Central Indiana.”

In addition to the services being provided to BMH, Life Air is continuing to expand services into Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia.

See the new Medical Helicopter Up Close

Ball Memorial Hospital will be hosting a community open house for the new Life Air Medical Helicopter from 12 noon to 4 p.m., Saturday, May 30. The Life Air helicopter will be in the hospital parking lot on the corner of University and Tillotson. The public is welcome to come and see the helicopter up close, and weather permitting enjoy helicopter rides as well.

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