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### **Freedom Supports MedStar Health in Bel Air With Special Chair**

(Bel Air, Maryland) MedStar Health in Bel Air has a new state-of-the-art patient chair for expectant mothers at risk, thanks to a new partnership with Freedom Federal Credit Union. A dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony was conducted at MedStar earlier in September to recognize Freedom's support of its Maternal Fetal Medicine Center (MFM), MedStar Ambulatory Services.

Participants included: Mike MacPherson, Freedom President and CEO; Dr. Anadir Silva, the Physician Lead for Maternal Fetal Medicine Center at MedStar Health in Bel Air; Karol Edwards, Regional Director, MedStar Ambulatory Services; Linda Hawes, Manager of Operations, MedStar Health in Bel Air.

According to Dr. Anadir Silva, Obstetrician and Gynecologist, Maternal Fetal Medicine, MedStar Health, Freedom was the catalyst in providing better care for patients of MedStar's MFM program, by providing the funding necessary to purchase a new, state-of-the-art patient table/chair and larger monitor in the Mother and Women's Care Unit. Patients of the unit spend longer times in the exam room than most traditional patients, and this new equipment has greatly enhanced the patients' experience and comfort.

MFM physicians are high-risk pregnancy experts, specializing in the un-routine. For pregnant women with chronic health problems, MFM physicians work with other clinical specialists in an office or hospital setting to keep the woman healthy as her body changes and her baby grows. Care is provided for women who face unexpected problems that develop during pregnancy, such as early labor, bleeding, or high blood pressure.

Ms. Hawes said Freedom's gift allows MedStar to provide optimal care and resources that wouldn't always be available to give back to our community. Our patients, who have been identified as high risk, need an ultrasound done under the guidance of Dr. Silva and her expertise. This allows patients to be a lot more comfortable during that procedure and allows her to get the proper positioning in order to get

the optimal images. The gift is wonderful in that it includes a very large screen TV, so family members who are there along with the expectant mother can see the images of their pending arrival.

She also said maternal fetal medicine is a very specialized type of women's care for high risk pregnancies. It's a very limited service and a specialty that is hard to find here in Harford County. MedStar Health has a great, full continuum of care here from women's health, to identify a high risk pregnancy to a full service pediatric service, as well as primary care for women and children.

Mr. MacPherson said, "In my position there are very few 'no brainers' that you can make a call on. So, when I heard about this opportunity and the necessity for this particular chair and what it represents for soon-to-be moms, we had to support it. It's really important that we serve the community, not just as a credit union and financial institution, but as a community partner."

Also present at the event were: Michael Dilworth, Sr. Vice President, Marketing with Freedom; Susan Manning, Business Development Specialist, Freedom Federal Credit Union; Aaron Piccirilli, Vice President, Philanthropy Initiatives, MedStar Health.

MedStar Health is the largest healthcare provider in Maryland and the Washington, D.C. region. MedStar's 10 hospitals, the MedStar Health Research Institute, MedStar Medical Group, MedStar Ambulatory Services and other programs and services are recognized regionally and nationally for excellence in medical care. MedStar Health's physicians, nurses, researchers, and support staff comprise 30,000 associates and 6,000 affiliated physicians who support MedStar's patient-first philosophy of care, compassion, clinical excellence, and customer service in their hospitals, urgent care and ambulatory care facilities, and physician offices.

Freedom Federal Credit Union is a community-chartered federal credit union offering consumer financial services to those who live, work, volunteer, worship, attend school, or have family in Harford County. Additionally, Freedom offers a full-line of banking services for all businesses, associations, and other organizations that are based in Harford County. Freedom has been in business since 1953 and has five locations throughout Harford County.

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