



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MARGE & RANDY BECKER SPUR FUND-RAISING FOR BASSETT HEALTH CENTER IN MIDDLEBURGH WITH \$50,000 GIFT**

Cooperstown, N.Y. – Dedicated to improving the quality of life for residents of Middleburgh and surrounding communities, Marge and Randy (Marjorie Rose and Randall F.) Becker, longtime residents of the burgeoning Schoharie County town, have made a challenge grant of \$50,000 to Bassett Healthcare. Their contribution is the cornerstone gift toward the establishment of a Bassett health center in Middleburgh, tailored to meet the area's growing need for primary care services.

The Beckers' gift already is acting as a catalyst, inspiring others in the community to give what they can to reach the \$100,000 start-up goal. Recognizing the Beckers' positive involvement in the area, friends, neighbors and admirers across the county and beyond, are responding to Marge and Randy's challenge.

Bassett is currently preparing a Certificate of Need (CON) for the new health clinic to submit to the New York State Department of Health, which governs the establishment and construction of health care facilities in the state. Once approvals are gained, Bassett Healthcare–Middleburgh is anticipated to begin to alleviate the area's critical demand for primary care services and accommodate the growing number of patient visits.

With patient volumes at the Bassett Healthcare-Schoharie, Bassett Healthcare-Cobleskill and Bassett Healthcare-Sharon Springs health centers consistently growing over the past decade, access to providers has become important for many residents. The new Middleburgh clinic will help address this problem. Bassett Healthcare has a demonstrated knowledge of the region's health care needs as evidenced by its four affiliated hospitals and 23 regional health centers in its eight-county, 5,000-square-mile service area. Patients and their families of the greater Middleburgh area are familiar with Bassett through care they have received at Bassett Hospital of Schoharie County (BHSC) and at Bassett Healthcare-Schoharie, Bassett Healthcare-Cobleskill and Bassett Healthcare-Sharon Springs.

Marge and Randy Becker, through their business, The Middleburgh Telephone Company, have been giving back significantly to the surrounding communities for two generations. Company President Randall Becker served on the Town of Middleburgh Town Council for nearly 20 years, served on the Board of Trustees of the Middleburgh Methodist Church for 20 years, and was active with the Otschodela Boy Scout Council for over 10 years, receiving the prestigious Silver Beaver Award for distinguished service to youth. Mr. Becker also is past president of the Middleburgh Rotary Club, past master of the Masonic Lodge, and a 20-year veteran of the Middleburgh Volunteer Fire Department.

In recent years, with the backing of Mr. and Mrs. Becker, The Middleburgh Telephone Company has been involved in such significant community improvement projects as the Leathers Playground at the Middleburgh Elementary School, the Middleburgh Community Baseball Field, the Forever Lasting Nature Trail and the County DARE Program. The company not only contributed financially to these community projects, but Middleburgh Telephone personnel helped to build many of these projects.

Contributions toward the establishment of Bassett Healthcare–Middleburgh can be made to: Scott A. Barrett, Executive Director, Friends of Bassett, One Atwell Rd., Cooperstown, NY 13326.

**PHOTO CAPTION**

**Marge and Randy (Marjorie Rose and Randall F.) Becker, Schoharie County civic and business leaders, recently created a \$50,000 challenge grant to help establish a Bassett Healthcare health center in Middleburgh. Donors throughout the greater Middleburgh area already are responding to the challenge to honor Mr. and Mrs. Becker.**