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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Laurels of Athens Announces Partnerships with Ohio Aquatic Center and O'Bleness Hospital Residency Program

New collaborations will offer unparalleled service to the Athens community

ATHENS, Ohio – The Laurels of Athens, a skilled nursing and rehabilitation center operated by Laurel Health Care Company, is partnering with the Ohio Aquatic Center and the OHP Heritage College Residency Program at Ohio Health O'Bleness Hospital on new initiatives that will deliver unparalleled care and service to the local community.

Since October, The Laurels has hosted aquatic therapy, an extension of its highly-regarded rehabilitation and outpatient therapy program, at the Ohio Aquatic Center, located at 50 South Green Drive in Athens. Aquatic therapy is a specialized form of physical and occupation therapy that allows muscles to relax while helping to reduce pain, increase circulation, improve muscle strength and flexibility and decrease stress on joints.

"Aquatic therapy can be used to improve function for a variety of medical conditions and we feel it will assist our outpatient therapy participants and short-term rehab guests in meeting goals faster and safer so they can get back to their normal daily routines," Kimberly Frazee, rehabilitation services director at The Laurels of Athens, said. "We are so excited to be able to offer this new mode of physical therapy and we thank the Ohio Aquatic Center for their support in this endeavor."

People of all ages and abilities can benefit from aquatic therapy, including individuals with bone, joint or muscle disorders, neurological and orthopedic injuries, and post-surgical limitations. Each participant in the program will enjoy a specialized plan of care designed to address their needs. Therapists at The Laurels are certified to complete this plan of care and will provide treatment in the pool using water's natural buoyancy to reduce the effects of gravity on injured or painful joints and muscles.

Along with its aquatic therapy initiative, The Laurels is also teaming with the O'Bleness OHP Heritage College Residency Program to offer expanded physician coverage to guests at the facility. Under the direction of Dr. John Lloyd, medical director at The Laurels of Athens, and Dr. Jean Rettos, residency program director, resident doctors will aid in the transitional care of guests at The Laurels, assisting in wound healing and prevention, IV therapy, cardiopulmonary rehab, post-surgical recovery and much more. The new partnership will provide tremendous learning opportunities for resident doctors and unmatched medical care for guests at the facility.

"We are thrilled to partner with the O'Bleness OHP Heritage College Residency Program to continue to expand services available to the Athens community," Shaun Gentner, administrator at The Laurels of Athens, said. "Currently, Dr. Lloyd sees patients in person no less than three days a week but with the additional physician coverage through this partnership we will have a physician available to guests no less than five days a week. This will set a new standard for physician oversight in skilled nursing care in our area."

To learn more about The Laurels of Athens and its services, or for additional details on the partnerships with the Ohio Aquatic Center and O'Bleness OHP Heritage College Residency Program, visit www.laurelsfathens.com or call 740-592-1000.