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## **Boulder Community Foothills Hospital, First LEED® Certified Hospital, Features Wausau's Windows**

Wausau, Wis. (May 2005) – Offering patients a nurturing, healing environment, Boulder Community Foothills Hospital (BCFH) for women and children features natural daylight and ventilation with Wausau Window and Wall Systems® operable windows. Committed to energy efficiency and “green” building, the facility is the world’s first hospital to earn certification from the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Rating System®.

Designed by OZ Architects and Boulder Associates with environmental consulting by Architectural Energy Corporation, the team helped set a new benchmark in sustainable design and is expected to realize annual energy savings of more than 21 percent. Exceeding expectations at its one-year anniversary in Autumn 2004, the building remained the only LEED v2 Silver Certified Hospital in the nation and the second LEED-rated building in Colorado.

Located in a lush meadow, BCFH’s U-shaped structure surrounds a courtyard that opens onto the creek and foothills. The 200,000-square-foot, 60-bed hospital’s pursuit of LEED certification began during management planning and played a key role throughout construction including in site development, building design and materials selection. Contractor Gerald H. Phipps, Inc. oversaw the \$56 million construction project.

Locally harvested and manufactured materials were used extensively, along with recycled and recyclable materials. The building employs many environmental innovations including a super-efficient power plant, roofing material that reflects solar heat air and high-performance windows installed by local glazing contractor A-1 Glass.

To capture as much natural light as possible, one wing of the hospital was constructed at a precise angle to maximize the Colorado sunshine. “Some of the windows are quite large with dimensions sometimes greater than 46x66-inches,” notes Wausau representative Don Cheshek.

In addition to saving on electrical lighting costs, the Center for Health Design has reported that patients in brightly lighted rooms have a shorter length of stay and those exposed to increased intensity of sunlight experience less perceived stress and had 20 percent less pain medication costs.

BCFH complements the benefits of daylighting with dramatic views of the Flatirons and natural ventilation. When a patient opens a window for fresh air, a sensor notifies the HVAC system to shut off the room’s air conditioning.

Wausau’s energy-efficient 3250z Series zero sightline casement windows were finished by Linetec in Boulder Gray Clear Fluropon®. Delivered in 57 pre-assembled units, the windows system required no special consideration for on-site finish application or other concerns affecting indoor air quality.

*(more)*

“Hospitals have more stringent health and safety standards, such as outside air change... which made LEED certification an even greater challenge,” explained Nick Rehnberg, principal with Boulder Associates. “Along with our client, we believe LEED is worth the effort because green/sustainable environments are healthier all around, a perfect fit the healthcare industry.”

“We’re looking at the big picture of healthy communities,” emphasized OZ Architecture’s principal David Schafer, AIA, LEED. “Healthy buildings save energy and resources, preserve land, reduce indoor air pollution and give people access to natural light and ventilation. Durable, healthy buildings increase productivity and save money in the long run.”

A study conducted by the U.S. Green Building Council also indicates that absenteeism is reduced and employee satisfaction is improved in buildings with daylighting. Schafer added, “...the importance of environmentally sound architecture and planning seems to rise daily.”

“We believe we should do anything we can to improve the health of our community,” said BCFH’s COO Margaret VanCleave.

The healthcare, architectural and construction industries all seem to agree. Since opening in the September 2003, Boulder Community Foothills Hospital has received honors and awards from national energy and environmental publications, the American Hospital Association’s American Society for Healthcare Engineering, the Center for Health Design, and state chapters of the American Institute of Architects, the American Society for Interior Designs, and the Associated General Contractors.

*Nationally recognized for its innovative expertise, Wausau Window and Wall Systems is an industry leader in engineering window and curtainwall systems for commercial and institutional construction applications. For nearly 50 years, Wausau has worked closely with architects, building owners and contractors to realize their vision for aesthetic beauty and lasting value, while striving to maintain the highest level of customer service, communication and overall satisfaction.*

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