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Dr. Michael Black and the new pediatric heart program is profiled in the November Issue of Treasure Coast Parenting Magazine.

There's Something about St. Mary's

by Lyn Fraser

For over 70 years, St. Mary's Medical Center has been servicing the medical and health care needs of The Treasure Coast and greater West Palm Beach area. Unfortunately, most parents are way too busy living their hectic lives that they don't often stop and notice what is available to them until time is of the essence—and they are forced to make a quick medical decision.

For years, Treasure Coast parents have been traveling for miles and miles to seek the necessary medical and health care they need for themselves and their children when they need expertise and specialists who are not located here in the four-county area.

No more than a quick trip on Florida's turnpike or I-95, Treasure Coast families can now take advantage of all of the services provided by St. Mary's Medical Center and their cutting-edge pediatric medical team to insure that our children get the medical treatment they need quickly.



Dr. Michael Black

In September, St. Mary's welcomed renowned congenital cardiac surgeon, Dr. Michael Black, to its medical staff. Dr. Black, fellowship trained congenital cardiac surgeon, has joined the hospital's medical staff to develop the new Pediatric Congenital Heart Program. Black's extensive experience, family-centered approach and advanced minimally invasive pediatric open-heart procedures will set the foundation for St. Mary's pediatric open-heart surgery/

pediatric cardiac catheterization programs and bring much needed advanced cardiovascular surgery options to the Palm Beaches and the Treasure Coast.



"St. Mary's welcomes Dr. Black and looks forward to developing its pediatric heart program with more innovative congenital heart surgery options," says David Carbone, St. Mary's Medical Center's Chief Executive Officer. "Congenital heart defects are fairly common and the need for surgical intervention can affect anyone at any age, from a newborn to a child and even an adult. Treasure Coast and Palm Beach County residents once had to travel far in search for the advanced treatment of congenital heart defects. Now, St. Mary's can offer a unique, minimally invasive treatment option right here in the local community."

Black is joining the St. Mary's medical team as part of the pediatric open heart surgery/pediatric cardiac catheterization program, which was approved by Florida's Agency for Healthcare Administration. No other hospital in Florida has received such approval in over 15 years.

Black's arrival will be a significant asset to the pediatric open heart program at St. Mary's. He is renowned for developing highly specialized, minimally invasive robotic procedures and techniques for performing complex congenital heart repairs. He has successfully operated on adults, children and infants weighing as little as 400 grams (less than one pound). These minimally invasive procedures can allow for smaller incisions and faster

recovery times. For many children and adults, this means less pain and a quicker return to daily activities. In addition, minimally invasive procedures can reduce scarring, which for many children and adults means improved self-esteem and body image.

Black comes to St. Mary's from California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco, where he was Chief of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery and the Adult Congenital Heart Program. Prior to that, Black served as the Chief of Cardiac Surgery at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford University and Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery at the Stanford University School of Medicine.

About St. Mary's Medical Center

St. Mary's Medical Center offers a broad array of services, including medical, surgical, obstetrics, pediatrics, orthopedics, trauma and emergency services. St. Mary's specialty services include a pediatric trauma center, 24-hour children's emergency department, pediatric intensive care unit, comprehensive stroke center, high-risk obstetrical unit, Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Children's Hospital at St. Mary's, the Rehabilitation Institute and the Memory Disorders Center. St. Mary's Medical Center is fully accredited by the Joint Commission, the nation's oldest and largest hospital accreditation agency.

St. Mary's is also home to the Paley Advanced Limb Lengthening Institute at the Joint Preservation and Bone Reconstruction Center. Led by Dr. Paley, a board-certified, fellowship-trained orthopedic surgeon who is nationally and internationally recognized for his expertise in deformity correction and limb lengthening, PALLI includes operating rooms, physician offices and a physical therapy center.

To learn more about St. Mary's Medical Center, visit www.stmarysmc.com or call 561-844-6300.