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### **Grand Itasca Names 27+ Veteran as New CEO**

**Grand Rapids** – Michael Youso has been named the new Chief Executive Officer at Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital. Mr. Youso, the current President at Fairview Northland Health Services in Princeton, MN, will join the Grand Itasca team in his new role as CEO on January 4, 2010. Youso fills the vacancy that occurred when former CEO, John Kutch, resigned in April of 2009.

Youso, a veteran health care executive, has worked for the Fairview Health System for the past 27 years. In his current role as President at Fairview Northland, Youso oversees the operations of an integrated health care delivery system with a 54 bed-community hospital and four primary care clinics in the Princeton area. Similar in size to Grand Itasca, the Fairview Northland delivery system has over 700 employees, 85 providers and annual net revenues of \$85 million.

Mr. Youso graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead with a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting. He later completed his Master of Business Administration at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul.

"The Grand Itasca Board is very pleased to welcome Mr. Youso to the organization", said Barbara McDonald, Grand Itasca Board Chair. "Michael brings a solid health care background to the CEO position. His successes within the Fairview System and at Northland show his strong leadership abilities, attention to quality health care and a value driven work ethic. We were particularly impressed with his experience within an integrated health care delivery system, his passion for people and his customer focused approach to health care. Michael and his family will make a great addition to our community."

Prior to his position at Northland, Mr. Youso held several key positions within the Fairview Health system including, Vice President of Treasury Operations and Senior Vice President of Corporate Finance.

Although Youso has worked for one health care system for his entire career he is very excited about joining an organization that is independent. He sees many similarities between Grand Itasca and Northland. "Both Grand Itasca and Northland are integrated health care delivery systems that strive to provide both primary and specialty services to the communities they serve. Many in the industry look at Grand Itasca as the ideal model for future health care delivery. The Grand Itasca model, where resources are under one roof and shared by both the

clinic and hospital, is an innovative model that many believe will help control future health care costs and improve the quality of care. Youso continued, “Grand Itasca plays a key role in their community by supplying area residents with high-quality, local health care services. Grand Itasca’s community board provides local governance to ensure community needs are addressed and met. As one of the top employers in the area, Grand Itasca is an important community asset, and I look forward to contributing to its success.”

When asked how he felt about leaving the Fairview Health Care System, he stated, “I look at every new experience as an opportunity. Over the past 27 years at Fairview, I have continuously learned new skills, made changes and adapted to them. I have strived to always bring value to any role I played in the organization. I look forward to continue my ‘value-added’ leadership at Grand Itasca.”

When asked about what his first priorities at Grand Itasca would be, Youso stated, “The reason I like health care is that it is a service business. It is about people and I thoroughly enjoy people. I want to get to know providers, staff, patients and the people in the communities we serve. I want to build off the many successful strategies that Grand Itasca has already put into place. I hope to do so by providing leadership and support to the providers and staff at Grand Itasca.”

Michael and his family currently reside in Princeton. He and his wife Corinne have four sons, Ryan, Adam, Jack and Sam, who is the youngest and a senior in high school. Both Youso and his wife grew up near Moose Lake, MN. Michael said, “We still have a cabin on Sturgeon Lake near Moose Lake. My whole family is outdoor enthusiasts. We love to be outdoors and enjoy boating, fishing, hunting, golf and downhill skiing. Grand Rapids and the surrounding area was another reason the position at Grand Itasca was so attractive to me. We love the area and can’t wait to get settled in.”

Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital is a non-profit, integrated delivery system that employs nearly 600 people. The integrated clinic and hospital, described as a “modern expression of hospitality and healing” is home to over 50 physicians and other providers including specialists in Orthopedics, Ob/Gyn, Pediatrics, Podiatry, Urology, and Acute Rehabilitation.