



Continuum Health Partners, Inc.

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BETH ISRAEL’S FIRST WEDDING UNDER MARRIAGE EQUALITY

New York, NY (August 10, 2011) On August 2, Beth Israel-Petrie Division hosted its first wedding under New York State’s new marriage equality law when Jacques Beaumont and his partner of almost 40 years, Richard Townsend, were married in a ceremony in the 9 Linsky Patient/Family Lounge. The Chelsea couple arrived at Beth Israel’s Emergency Room together several weeks ago and were both admitted to the hospital. During conversations with nurse manager Nina Hairston, RN, they expressed a desire to “tie the knot.” With help from NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn’s Office, they secured a marriage license – and Nina and others did the rest. Rev. Glenn Chalmers from the Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles in Chelsea performed the ceremony with assistance from colleagues from the Episcopal Diocese of Brooklyn. Beth Israel’s Food Services Department even prepared a two-tiered wedding cake! Over 40 family, friends and staff members who have been caring for Jacques and Richard attended the ceremony. Beth Israel President Harris M. Nagler, MD, offered congratulations on behalf of the hospital community. “We made history at Beth Israel,” said Ms. Hairston. “It was a beautiful ceremony and everyone was just so happy to have helped to make it happen.”

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