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Crews'n Healthmobile Mobile Clinic is finalist for national award

Phoenix Children's Mobile Clinic provides Health Care to homeless youth and at-risk population in Phoenix

PHOENIX (January 22, 2007) – The Phoenix Children's Hospital in Phoenix has been recognized by Premier Inc. and its member hospitals for the [Crews'n Healthmobile Mobile Clinic](#) Project which delivers free healthcare services to homeless and at-risk individuals via a 35-foot mobile clinic.

Established in 1999 through a partnership between Phoenix Children's Hospital (www.phoenixchildrens.com) and HomeBase Youth Services with other partners such as Banner Healthcare, the Crews'n Healthmobile Mobile Clinic Project is a mobile medical unit providing high quality healthcare to homeless youth, young adults and other at-risk populations age 0 to 25 in metropolitan Phoenix. Healthcare services are provided in areas where homeless youth congregate as well as where teen mothers and children live in group homes and shelters.

Healthcare providers deliver comprehensive exams and medicinal treatment, including screenings for mood disorders, anxiety, depression and sexually transmitted disease; immunizations; vision and dental care; and radiology, OB/GYN and psychiatric services. Results are dramatic: hospital emergency room visits have been reduced by 25 percent for those who use the mobile clinic.

The Crews'n Healthmobile Mobile Clinic Project was one of six organizations nationally recognized as a finalist for the 16th annual Monroe E. Trout Premier Cares Award. The Cares Award, sponsored by Premier Inc. and its member hospitals, honors exemplary efforts by not-for-profit organizations to improve access to healthcare for the underserved. Representatives from the Crews'n Healthmobile Mobile Clinic Project were recognized and presented with a cash award of \$24, 000 during Premier's annual Governance Education Conference, which took place here January 21-23.

A leading alliance of not-for-profit hospitals, Premier receives 150 to 200 applications annually for the prestigious award. A panel of hospital professionals, as well as health and business industry leaders, selects the winner and five finalists, which all receive cash awards for use in further improving their programs.

"We are proud to support the efforts of organizations that are making a real difference in people's health every day," said Richard A. Norling, Premier's President and CEO. "With the Cares Award, we recognize those programs that are helping us achieve Premier's core purpose of 'improving the health of the communities we serve.'"

This year's Cares Award recipient was the Bridge to the Future program at Nurses for Newborns Foundation (www.nfnf.org) in St. Louis, which provides a safety net for at-risk families who are underinsured or have limited access to resources, in order to prevent infant mortality, child abuse and neglect through in-home nursing visits.

Following are the other four finalists for the award, each of which received \$24,000:

The Birth Companions Program of Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, Baltimore

(www.son.jhmi.edu/practice/bc)

The Birth Companions Program assists underserved pregnant women to optimize prenatal care using community resources to improve maternal and newborn outcomes. Since 1999, 475 Johns Hopkins nursing student Birth Companions have provided advocacy, prenatal care, labor support and education while attending 496 births in Maryland.

El Rio Pharmacy Based Diabetes Program of the El Rio Foundation, Tucson, Ariz. (www.elrio.org)

Founded in 2001, the Pharmacy Based Diabetes Program of El Rio Community Health Center serves as the primary care provider of diabetes and co-morbid conditions, hypertension and hyperlipidemia for low-income Hispanics and Native Americans. Using medical staff-approved practices, pharmacists provide diagnostic, educational and therapeutic management services.

Metta Health Center of the Lowell Community Health Center, Lowell, Mass. (www.lchealth.org)

The Metta Health Center was established in 2000 to address the ethno-cultural and institutional barriers to primary, preventive and mental healthcare for the Southeast Asian communities in Lowell, Mass. Lowell is home to the second largest Cambodian population in the U.S. Through the health center's efforts, diabetes patients' long-term blood sugar levels have stabilized and patients treated for mental health conditions have shown documented improvements.

Steps to Success at Terrebonne General Medical Center, Houma, La. (www.tgmc.com)

Established in 1999, Terrebonne General's Steps to Success (STS) program provides services to underserved individuals of all ages, races and socioeconomic backgrounds of the bayou region. STS has improved outcomes for more than 8,041 parents and children by focusing on preventing teenage pregnancy, fostering the healthy development of children during the critical ages of 0 to 3, and providing young mothers and fathers with resources, education and support to cultivate effective parenting.

About Premier Inc., 2006 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recipient

Serving 1,700 U.S. hospitals and more than 49,000 other healthcare sites, the Premier healthcare alliance is working to transform healthcare. Owned by non-profit hospitals, Premier operates one of the largest healthcare purchasing networks and the nation's largest comprehensive repository of hospital clinical and financial information. Premier Insurance Management Services, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary, operates one of the largest policy-holder owned, hospital professional liability risk-retention groups in healthcare. Premier is also working with the United Kingdom's National Health Service North West region to implement a model pay-for-performance program, called "Advancing Quality." Headquartered in San Diego, Premier has offices in Charlotte, N.C., Philadelphia, and Washington. For more information, visit www.premierinc.com. Established to improve the health of communities, Premier and its members are transforming healthcare together.

About the Premier Cares Award

Premier has presented the Cares Award annually since 1992, when it was created by Dr. Monroe E. Trout, former CEO of American Healthcare Systems, one of Premier's heritage organizations. The Cares Award winner receives a cash prize of \$70,000, while five runners-up receive \$24,000 each. The competition is open to non-profit organizations that have been in existence for more than two years, are providing creative solutions to health status improvement, can provide documentation of outcomes and impact on a specific population, and have programs that can be replicated in other communities.

Phoenix Children's Hospital is Arizona's leader in pediatric care and is one of the 10 largest free-standing children's hospitals in the nation. The most comprehensive array of pediatric specialists in the State practice at this one organization. The outstanding clinical expertise, as well as high patient volume, and an unwavering commitment to caring only for children, all contribute to Phoenix Children's leadership position. For information about Phoenix Children's, visit the Hospital's website at www.phoenixchildrens.com.