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Phoenix Children's donates over 1,000 inches of hair to help kids with medical hair loss

PHOENIX, Ariz. (July 1, 2008) – The “bob” haircut made a comeback Monday to help children nationwide with medical hair loss. **In just three hours, 45 Phoenix Children's Hospital employees, their families, and patients donated a total of 1,735 inches (approximately 145 feet) of hair to Locks of Love**, an organization providing hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

Fun facts from Phoenix Children's inaugural hair drive:

- The longest donation included two 24 inch braids.
- 24 Hospital employees donated their hair.
- Phoenix Children's collected 145 ponytails (thick hair was separated into two ponytails), along with over \$100.
- Locks of Love uses six to 10 ponytails to make one hairpiece. Phoenix Children's donated enough hair to make between 14 and 24 wigs.

Jean Gonzales, a Patient Care Technician at Phoenix Children's Hospital donated two feet of hair, (contributing to the longest donation) getting her first haircut in 10 years. “My family will be shocked when I go home because no one knew I was cutting my hair today,” Gonzales said.

Amber Mosley, a stylist for Salon Estique, cut hair for the event. She believes Locks of Love is a wonderful cause. “I do free haircuts for Locks of Love at the salon, anyway, so it's nice to actually come here and see the patients and the people who are going to wear these wigs. It's just awesome,” Moseley said.

Salon Estique in central Phoenix provided the latest cuts to Phoenix Children's hair donors – free of charge. The Salon also contributed products and gift certificates for hair donor appreciation bags.

Anyone interested in learning more about supporting Locks of Love should visit www.locksoflove.org.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The photograph attached shows six year old Addy Rideout, a former cancer patient at Phoenix Children's Hospital holding up 10 inches of her hair that was cut. This was Addy's first hair cut ever.

About Phoenix Children's Hospital

Phoenix Children's Hospital is Arizona's only licensed children's hospital, providing world-class care in more than 40 pediatric specialties to our state's sickest kids. Though Phoenix Children's is one of the ten largest freestanding children's hospitals in the country, rapid population growth in Arizona means the Hospital must grow as well. Phoenix Children's recently announced a \$588 million expansion plan to

bring its special brand of family-centered care to even more patients and families. The plan includes a significant upgrade of the Hospital's current campus, an aggressive physician recruitment effort, and new satellite centers in high growth areas of the Valley. For more information, visit the Hospital's Web site at www.phoenixchildrens.com.

