



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Jessica Wheeler
(602) 546-0824
(602) 202-2229 (pager)
jwheeler1@phoenixchildrens.com

Patient Dance Celebrates Back-to-School, 20 Years of Hospital's One Darn Cool School program

PHOENIX, Ariz. (August 16, 2006) – Back-to-school dances are usually held in school gymnasiums or cafeterias, but Phoenix Children's Hospital is bringing the party to the hospital's dining hall. The Hospital celebrates the start of school and the 20th anniversary of the One Darn Cool School, in-hospital school program, with a patient dance on **Thursday, August 17, from 3 to 5 p.m., at Phoenix Children's cafeteria.**

Patients will dress to impress ... with girls dress shopping through donated gowns and boys choosing new shirts and ties to keep with the semi-formal attire. The event includes swing dance lessons, hair and nail makeovers, a basketball court, beading activities, Dippin' Dots Ice Cream, Grimaldi's Pizza, and a photo booth to remember this one-of-a-kind event!

"It's that time of the year ... and patients at Phoenix Children's Hospital are no different than other Valley students. School is part of a child's normal routine, and it's important to continue this routine even when a child is hospitalized. Experts tell us that school activities normalize the hospital experience for kids. They help to lower anxiety levels and increase the mental and physical well-being of the children," said Tiffany Garcia, Head School Teacher at Phoenix Children's Hospital's One Darn Cool School.

Phoenix Children's is one of only a few hospitals in the nation that employs its own teaching staff. The hospital's One Darn Cool School is supported through the annual commitment to Phoenix Children's Hospital by Arizona's credit unions. Credit Unions for Kids is part of a national fund-raising program developed by Children's Miracle Network. Donations from Arizona's credit unions provide for teacher salaries, books, computers, internet access and all needed school supplies. Phoenix Children's One Darn Cool School employs four masters level, certified special education teachers to provide classroom and bedside teaching to Hospital patients (grades K-12). In addition, the Hospital provides a re-entry specialist to work with patients' families and the child's regular teacher to assist children when they make the transition back to their regular classroom.

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 Children's leadership position. For information about Phoenix Children's, visit the Hospital's award-winning website at www.phoenixchildrens.com.