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PHOENIX CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL TO BEGIN \$23 MILLION NEONATAL UNIT EXPANSION *Renovated Facility to Set Benchmark for Newborn Care Nationwide*

PHOENIX (Aug. 30, 2006) – Private patient rooms with individual lighting controls may seem like creature comforts to some, but for tiny patients in Phoenix Children's Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), they will be an integral part of the road to recovery.

The newborn and infant care unit, located on the campus of Banner Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, is undergoing a \$23 million expansion, of which the Phoenix Children's Hospital Foundation recently raised \$17 million through a capital campaign led by Rich Dozer, president of the Arizona Diamondbacks. The project will increase the NICU's size and incorporate cutting-edge design elements that create a healing environment and shorten patients' overall hospital stays. While construction on the new unit begins this week, when complete in January 2008, the 38,000-square-foot facility will set a benchmark for neonatal care nationwide.

“Studies have proven that limited space, bright lights and frequent noise in most hospitals can jeopardize the well-being of premature and critically ill infants,” said Laurie Vasquez, administrative director of the hospital's NICU. “Renovation of the neonatal intensive care unit will enable our medical teams to provide the most specialized care in a setting that benefits both patients and their families.”

As part of the expansion, Phoenix Children's Hospital will add 76 private patient rooms that can accommodate up to 100 babies. To support the role family plays in healing, a number of the new patient rooms will be specially equipped to handle multiple births so babies and families can be together during this crucial time. Several other enhancements – from specially designed floors, ceiling tiles and curtains to a family-friendly nursery – will ensure a quiet, welcoming and clutter-free environment. Ample space also will be created for the hospital's medical staff to complete procedures efficiently without disrupting the infants' families.

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Phoenix Children's Hospital and Banner Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center are working closely with Stein-Cox architects and Layton Construction to proceed on the construction in phases, so that the current NICU can remain open to families during the renovation.

Each year, an estimated 1,600 babies from Arizona and throughout the Southwest are admitted to Phoenix Children's Hospital's NICU. Most of the infants are born premature and often have an array of medical conditions, including respiratory distress syndrome, congenital heart defects, and under-developed digestive and neurological systems.

Other babies are born full-term, but suffer from infection, fetal alcohol syndrome, congenital birth defects, drug addition and complications from traumatic birth. Yet remarkably, an astonishing 96 percent of these patients survive.

But the hospital's mission is much bigger than helping babies survive, said Robert Meyer, the hospital's president and CEO. "We want to ensure a healthy future for these patients, so that they are able to reach their full potential."

Phoenix Children's Hospital is the only specialty children's hospital in Arizona and it is poised to become one of the foremost pediatric hospitals in the nation. The hospital is home to the state's largest group of pediatric specialists and sub-specialists. In addition, the hospital continues to evolve its clinical practices and is working with leading local and national research partners to uncover new breakthroughs in pediatric medicine. For more information, visit www.phoenixchildrens.com.

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