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**CONTACT:**

Jane Walton  
(602) 546-5871  
(602) 202-2229 (pager)  
jwalton@phoenixchildrens.com

## **Former Patient to be Honored at Phoenix Children's Hospital's Beach Ball Fundraiser**

### ***Honoree Josh Porter makes "Peace Room" vision a reality for today's patients***

PHOENIX (March 1, 2006) -- Phoenix Children's Hospital, Arizona's leader in pediatric care, will honor former patient Josh Porter with the Spirit of Hope Award on Saturday, March 4, during the 13th annual Beach Ball fundraiser gala at the Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa. Among other efforts to make extended hospital stays more comfortable for patients, Porter, a survivor of kidney disease, will be recognized for the creation of the hospital's "Peace Room"-- a quiet sanctuary where patients can go when in need of alone time.

"Phoenix Children's Hospital has done more for me than words can convey, and I am deeply honored to receive the Spirit of Hope Award," said Porter. "My experience with the hospital has changed my life, and I hope in return that my work with Phoenix Children's Hospital has helped bring peace and courage to other patients."

Porter, now 25, spent most of his childhood fighting severe kidney disease which eventually required a transplant at age 10. During his time at Phoenix Children's Hospital, he discovered the need for a quiet and private place where emotionally distressed patients could go to express themselves. Porter's vision became a reality years later, when in 2001, the Lund Foundation offered to donate \$50,000 in his name, which he utilized to design the Peace Room.

In addition to developing the Peace Room, Josh also served on the Children's Advisory Council at Phoenix Children's Hospital for nine years, where he helped to create the "Teen Room" and assist with the design of the new hospital. Josh's personal experience with illness and his efforts to enhance hospital facilities have not only provided today's patients with a more comfortable hospital stay, but also serve as a source of hope.

"Josh is an amazing success story and has been a very influential voice for the patients of Phoenix Children's Hospital," said Holly Larsen, co-chair for this year's Beach Ball. "We are proud to recognize Josh during our Beach Ball fundraiser for all the contributions, dedication and strength he has afforded the hospital and its

patients."

Now a junior at Oral Roberts University, Porter is majoring in organizational communications and hopes to obtain a position at a hospital in the future.

All proceeds from the March 4 fundraiser will benefit the state's first freestanding Level 1 pediatric trauma center to open at Phoenix Children's Hospital.

### **About Beach Ball**

Organizers of the 13th annual Beach Ball fundraiser gala hope to raise \$1.3 million for the state's first freestanding pediatric trauma center to open at Phoenix Children's Hospital. Josh Porter, a former patient and contributing visionary to the hospital's Peace Room, will be the evening's honoree. This year's presenting sponsor is TriWest Healthcare Alliance, along with major sponsors Verizon Wireless and Equitable Real Estate Company. For more information and details about Beach Ball, visit [www.pchbeachball.com](http://www.pchbeachball.com).

### **About Phoenix Children's Hospital**

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](http://www.phoenixchildrens.com).