



**PHOENIX
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**

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The Children's Heart Center at Phoenix Children's Opens the Only Pediatric Catheterization Lab in Arizona and the only Hybrid Cath Lab in the South West

Congenital heart defects affect one out of 100 births: New technologies are transforming the lives of children with heart disease

PHOENIX, Ariz. (August 2, 2006) – The Children's Heart Center at Phoenix Children's Hospital will celebrate the opening of the only Pediatric-dedicated Heart Catheterization Laboratory in Arizona and the only Hybrid Cath Lab in the Southwest on August 2, between 2 and 5 p.m. with a dedication ceremony at 2 p.m. and an Open House and Tours of the catheterization labs to follow. Participating in the festivities will be the Phoenix Fire Department who will deliver bears to the children in the Heart Center and to a large group of heart patients from the "Heart to Heart" Support group.

Congenital Heart defects affect one out of every 100 births in the United States. Twice as many children in the US die each year from congenital heart disease than die from all forms of childhood cancer combined. Most of these babies are diagnosed shortly after birth or in utero. These children need an early diagnosis and specialized therapies to survive and lead a normal life. Complex surgeries and procedures on tiny hearts require the latest technologies and the most skilled pediatric specialists in the nation.

"At Phoenix Children's – it's all about the kids. We offer cutting edge technologies and procedures, geared specifically to children. These procedures are carried out by a cardiac team of the most experienced pediatric specialists in the country," said Julie Vincent, MD, Medical Director of the new unit.

New Procedures Offered at Phoenix Children's Heart Catheterization Lab

- Procedures to close unwanted vessels are now routinely performed via transcatheter approach using coils or closure devices. Procedures to relieve aortic and pulmonary valve stenosis are performed using balloon catheters and are often curative. In the past, these children would have required surgical interventions.
- Septal occluder devices have allowed interventional cardiologists to close holes inside the heart through small tubes (catheters) placed in the blood vessels in the groin instead of the patients requiring open heart surgery to close the holes.
- Interventional cardiologists are teaming up with cardiovascular surgeons to perform "hybrid" procedures allowing more transcatheter therapies to be performed on infants and young children who would otherwise need open-heart surgery. The cardiovascular surgeon can obtain access in a

more central blood vessel or even directly through the right atria or ventricular free wall so that the interventional cardiologist can close a hole with a device without open heart surgery or cardiopulmonary bypass.

- In electrophysiology, advances have given electrophysiologists the ability to place catheters in the heart, identify areas of abnormal electricity and destroy the abnormal tissue causing the disturbances. Phoenix Children's also has the latest three dimensional mapping technologies to aid in the treatment of complex arrhythmias.

“We’re making amazing progress for kids with heart disease,” said Michael Teodori, Medical Director of the Children’s Heart Center. “Surgical mortality rates are now less than five percent, less complex heart defects can be corrected with minimally invasive procedures taking the place of Open Heart Surgery, and better diagnostic tools are helping us diagnose and treat infants earlier. But the best part is that more children with congenital heart disease are living longer and more normal lives.”

Phoenix Children’s Hospital 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.