



**PHOENIX
CHILDREN'S**
Hospital

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**Phoenix Children's Physician Randy Christensen Named
"Health Care Hero" for 2006**

Doctor awarded for his community outreach work with "Crews'n' Healthmobile" healthcare service for homeless teens

PHOENIX, Ariz. (August 24, 2006) – Dr. Randy Christensen, a General Pediatrics physician with Phoenix Children's Hospital, was named a "Health Care Hero" today at the 2006 Health Care Heroes awards program sponsored by the *Business Journal*. Christensen was among a field of three finalists in the "Community Outreach" category, and a panel of community healthcare leaders selected him as the winner for his work with the "Crews'n' Healthmobile" healthcare service for homeless teens.

"Long hours and tough cases are enough to wear out even the most dedicated physician. But for Randy Christensen, that's just where the work begins. We are incredibly proud of the work he has done for this community," said Bob Meyer, president and CEO of Phoenix Children's Hospital.

Crews'n Healthmobile, established by Phoenix Children's Hospital and HomeBase Youth Services with the help of The Children's Health Fund, brings medical help to some 5,000 homeless children and teenagers in Arizona. The mobile unit is staffed with medical practitioners from Phoenix Children's Hospital and case managers from HomeBase Youth Services.

Health services include examinations, immunizations, dispensing of medications, treatment for sexually transmitted illnesses and infections, various medical conditions, minor surgical procedures, health education, with counseling and referrals to specialists and sub-specialists at Phoenix Children's Hospital. Case managers coordinate referrals, complete AHCCCS applications, and transport patients as needed.

Staff also screen, test, educate and counsel youth on sexually transmitted infections, abstinence, HIV, Hepatitis A, B, and C, depression, anxiety, mood disorder, anger management, suicide risk, substance abuse, pregnancy, smoking cessation, nutrition, relationship and safety issues and self care.

Christensen's commitment to community service runs deep. In addition to his duties in the General Pediatrics department of Phoenix Children's Hospital and on the Crews'n Healthmobile, Christensen is a member of the Governor's Task Force on Homelessness. He serves on the advisory boards of the local chapters of the American Diabetes Association and Healthcare for the Homeless. He runs Camp AZDA, one of the largest camps for children with diabetes in the country.

Christensen said, "I truly believe that we should all be judged by how well we take care of the young, the sick, the poor. I believe that we as a society often don't understand these populations, or worse, we tend to forget them. It seems to me that we all share in the responsibility of caring for those suffering."

Beyond Arizona, Christensen traveled to Louisiana last September to provide medical care to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Along with Dr. Mark Rudinsky, Dr. Jonathan Lee-Melk, and Nurse Catherine Fogerlie, Christensen spent 10 days in a region 80 miles northeast of New Orleans caring for patients, distributing food and diapers, and surviving on Ready-to-Eat meals.

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.