



**PHOENIX
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**

FAX TO: _____

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: Jane Walton
(602) 546-5871 pager 202-2229**

March 16, 2007

**Phoenix Children's Hospital announces the Children's March on Child Abuse
April is Child Abuse Prevention Month**

Phoenix —Phoenix Children's Hospital will host the Children's March on Child Abuse, April 10th, 2007 at 10 a.m. During the month of March and April, we're asking care givers, paramedics, fire and police officers, families and friends to donate a pair of shoes commemorating the death or disability of a victim of child abuse. The goal will be to have enough shoes displayed to signify the 50 Arizona deaths from Child Abuse in 2006.

Shoes can be dropped off at the front desk of Phoenix Children's Hospital (1919 East Thomas). Participants are asked to personalize the shoes with a letter, note or poem in memory of the child. The shoes will be displayed at the event on April 10th, at the state Capitol and at Phoenix Children's during the month of April (Child Abuse Prevention Month). For more information call Jane Walton at (602) 546-5871.

The first pair of shoes was donated this week by Terri Christensen, RN. Christensen included a poem and a short note in the tiny blue booties stating this was in memory of a 2-month-old-baby boy who was shaken to death last year by his biological father. Christensen is a nurse in the neurology/neurosurgery area of the Critical Care area at Phoenix Children's and specializes in taking care of children with these kinds of injuries. At the time Terri donated the shoes, her unit was treating five children for head injuries connected with abuse.

Another pair of shoes was donated by Laura Anderson, a mother whose 2-year-old daughter Madison is recovering at Phoenix Children's from brain surgery. Madison developed a blood clot in her brain after a baby sitter shook her. Madison was partially paralyzed after her surgery, but with rehabilitation should recover and lead a fairly normal life.

At Phoenix Children's last year our physicians and staff treated 499 cases of neglect and abuse and there were 8 deaths. "Armed with this kind of data, its no wonder Phoenix Children's staff and administration are passionately committed to prevent child abuse," said Marcia Stanton, child abuse prevention coordinator at Phoenix Children's. Stanton mentioned several child prevention programs and collaborations active at Children's including: Project S.A.F. E. (Supporting a Family – Friendly Environment), the Shaken Baby Prevention Project and Stewards for Children, a program that trains caregivers to recognize sexual child abuse.

Phoenix Children's Hospital is Arizona's leader in pediatric care and is one of the ten largest free-standing hospitals in the nation. 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