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PHOENIX CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL BREAKS GROUND ON EAST VALLEY SPECIALTY AND URGENT CARE CENTER

New Facility to Help the Hospital Serve a Burgeoning Population of Children

MESA, ARIZ. (March 6, 2007) – Phoenix Children's Hospital has broken ground on a 30,000-square-foot facility in the East Valley that will offer specialty pediatric medical services and evening and weekend urgent care. The \$5.2 million center, located at the southwest corner of Southern Ave. and Higley Rd. in Mesa, is the first of a network of clinics and urgent care centers in high-growth areas of the Valley; construction of additional centers in the West and Northwest Valleys are planned for late 2007 and early 2008, respectively.

Mesa Mayor Keno Hawker will assist with the groundbreaking ceremony, along with Phoenix Children's Hospital President and CEO Robert Meyer and several Phoenix Children's Hospital Miracle Kids who are East Valley residents. At the ceremony, officials will unveil original artwork created by six Mesa elementary schools, which depict East Valley kids' ideas for staying healthy. The banners will decorate the construction fence around the site.

Once construction is completed this fall, a range of pediatric specialties and services will be offered at the East Valley facility, including audiology, cardiology, dermatology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, hematology, nephrology, neurology, orthopedics, psychiatry and psychology, pulmonology, speech pathology, urology and radiology and lab services. The clinic will include 20 examination rooms. The Center expects to treat about 35,000-45,000 specialty patients per year. About 40-50 kids per day are expected to visit the Center's urgent care.

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The facility is critical to keeping pace with growth in the East Valley, where about 308,000 children now reside. That number is expected to increase to 430,000 by 2030.

“Our community’s rapid growth is placing greater demands on all hospitals, but particularly on Phoenix Children’s Hospital,” said Meyer. “Truly, a crisis in pediatric health care is looming and our Hospital is planning for the future to be able to meet the need.”

Meyer noted that the Specialty and Urgent Care Centers are part of a master expansion plan, developed by the Hospital’s leadership and endorsed by the local medical community. The plan includes continued recruitment of specialty and sub-specialty physicians, expansion of clinical services, and partnerships with local and national research organizations to uncover breakthroughs in children’s medicine and ensure a long and healthy future for patients.

The facility is expected to complement existing health care services offered to children in the East Valley. “As a pediatrician who cares for a growing number of children with special health care needs, it is necessary to have access to top pediatric specialists,” said Ruth Letizia, MD, FAAP, of Apache Junction Pediatrics. “We are thrilled to have Phoenix Children’s Hospital, nationally recognized for excellence, within easy reach of East Valley families,” she continued. Joseph Piacentine, MD, of Mesa Pediatrics concurs. “As a pediatrician, I am excited to know that Phoenix Children’s Hospital is coming to our community. The Center will provide East Valley pediatricians with another option to give families who need specialized care for their kids.”

Mesa Mayor Keno Hawker believes the facility is a milestone in the development of the East Valley community. “Phoenix Children’s Hospital recognized that growth in the East Valley means a greater demand for quality pediatric care. This new, state-of-the-art facility will help meet that demand, and I’m pleased Phoenix Children’s Hospital is joining the impressive list of quality health care facilities located in Mesa.”

To serve what is projected to become one of the largest pediatric markets in the nation, Phoenix Children’s Hospital is addressing the need for additional medical services through a \$450 million, multi-year expansion of its main campus at Thomas Road, to bring the total number of patient beds at the Hospital to 513 from 299 by 2030. In addition, the Hospital is undergoing a \$23 million renovation of its neonatal intensive care unit on the campus of Banner

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Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center. The nursery will expand to 38,000 square feet – four times its current size – and will include 76 private patient rooms, making it one of the largest and most advanced facilities of its kind when complete in January 2008.

About Phoenix Children's Hospital:

Phoenix Children's Hospital is Arizona's leader in pediatric care and is one of the 10 largest freestanding 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 Phoenix Children's leadership position. For information about Phoenix Children's, visit the Hospital's award-winning Web site at www.phoenixchildrens.com.

Note: For a digital copy of the project rendering, please e-mail Anne Driscoll at adriscoll@ckpr.biz.

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