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Students Supporting Brain Tumor Research Raise \$53,000 for Phoenix Children's Hospital

Funds Support Largest Provider of Pediatric Cancer Services in Southwest

PHOENIX, Ariz. (May 9, 2007) – The sixth annual Students Supporting Brain Tumor Research (SSBTR) walkathon was a homework assignment more than 2,000 students and their families cheerfully completed, and on a weekend at that. SSBTR recently presented Phoenix Children's Hospital with \$53,000 – double the amount raised last year - to support programs and services at the Hospital's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders.

“Phoenix Children's is the state's leader in pediatric neuro-oncology care providing world-class treatment to more than 70 percent of Arizona children diagnosed with a brain tumor,” said Michael Ettl, Jr., MD, Division Chief of the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Phoenix Children's Hospital. “Our ability to provide cutting edge, family-centered care to children is positively impacted by the community's investment in our dedication to clinical research.”

The Center is the Southwest's largest provider of childhood cancer services and a national leader in pediatric oncology research. The team of medical practitioners includes 10 physicians, each with a specific area of expertise within the hematology and oncology fields. Encouraging each physician to specialize in certain diseases has allowed the Center's physicians to collectively keep up with the latest advancements in the treatment of cancer and hematologic disorders. As a result, the Center is able to provide top-notch care to all of its patients.

SSBTR hosted their sixth annual walkathon on February 24, at Pinnacle High School. The students raised \$210,000 for local and national organizations supporting research to cure this disease.

The student run organization was founded in 2002 shortly after three students from the Paradise Valley School District died from brain tumors. When research pointed out that, other than leukemia, this particular disease was the number one cancer killer of teenagers, a decision was made to do something about it.

The seventh annual SSBTR walkathon to raise funds for brain tumor research will be held on February 23, 2008, from Noon to 3 p.m. at Pinnacle High School. For more information, visit www.ssbtr.org.

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 website at www.phoenixchildrens.com.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The attached picture (from left) shows Wendy Kaye, MD, SSBTR Adult Advisory Committee; Michael Ettl, Jr., MD, Division Chief of the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Phoenix Children's Hospital; Steve Glassman, Pinnacle High School; Christy Sheely, Pinnacle High School student; and Steve Schnall, vice president of the Phoenix Children's Hospital Foundation.