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CONTACT:

Jessica Wheeler
(602) 546-0824
(602) 202-2229 (pager)
jwheeler1@phoenixchildrens.com

Phoenix Children's Warns of Fraudulent Door-to-Door Solicitations Claiming to Support Hospital

PHOENIX, Ariz. (April 19, 2007) – The Phoenix Children's Hospital Foundation is warning Valley residents to be aware of fundraising scams claiming to benefit the Hospital. This week, Phoenix Children's has received numerous phone calls from concerned residents – specifically in the East Valley – regarding door-to-door sales of magazines and books alleging to raise funds for the Hospital.

Scam victims have named "Integrity Program" (www.integritypgm.com) and "Team Xtreme Sales, LLC" as two organizations leading the bogus solicitations. Victims said young people from these companies have knocked on doors in Mesa's Red Mountain Ranch community claiming to be neighbors who are selling publications to benefit Phoenix Children's.

"Phoenix Children's Hospital never solicits door-to-door, and we do not operate a 'magazines for kids' fundraising program," said Steve Schnall, vice president Hospital Foundation.

Schnall invites concerned residents to contact the Hospital's Foundation at (602) 546-GIVE (4483) to verify Phoenix Children's fundraising programs before making a donation. He also encourages anyone interested in supporting Phoenix Children's to donate directly to the Hospital through the secure "Donate Now" page on their website at www.phoenixchildrens.com.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) provides additional tips to prevent becoming a victim of fundraising scams:

- Ask fundraisers to identify themselves and name the organization for which they are raising funds.
- Ask how your contributions will be used. The FTC suggests getting written information.
- Call the organization to verify a fundraiser's claim to be collecting on that organization's behalf. If the claim cannot be verified, the FTC recommends reporting the solicitation to local law enforcement officials.
- Ask if your contribution is tax-deductible. Make your check payable to the official name of the group or charity. Avoid cash gifts.
- Be suspicious of fundraisers suggesting you'll receive special treatment in return for your donation.
- Don't feel intimidated about declining to give. The FTC says fundraisers who use intimidation tactics are likely to be scam artists. Report the interaction to local law enforcement officials.

More information about fraud-related fundraising is accessible through the FTC website, www.ftc.org. To learn more about Arizona "scam alerts" or to report fraud, residents can visit Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard's website at www.azag.gov or contact his office in Phoenix at (602) 542-5763; in Tucson at (520) 628-6504; or outside the Phoenix and Tucson metro areas at (800) 352-8431.

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.