



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Phoenix Children's Hospital introduces Crews n' Healthmobile II**

***Children's Health Fund and Home Base Youth Services Partner***

*Ribbon Cutting for new unit serving homeless adolescents Friday, October 26 / 10*

*a.m.*

PHOENIX, Ariz. (October 22, 2007). Phoenix Children's Hospital will unveil Crews'n Healthmobile II on Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, at 10 a.m. at Phoenix Children's Hospital.

In the fall of 2000, an innovative partnership was formed between Phoenix Children's, Children's Health Fund and HomeBase Youth Services to serve the nearly 5,000 homeless youth and adolescents living on Valley streets. During the last eight years, the program has seen and educated thousands of children and adolescents. Last year the clinic had more than 2000 clinical visits and 761 were new patients. Although the clinic treats infants and children of all ages, the majority of patients are between the ages of 18 and 19.

Nationally known pediatrician, President and Co-Founder of the Children's Health Fund, located in New York City, Dr. Irwin Redlener will be on hand to speak as will Dr. Randal Christensen, Medical Director of the van and Mary Kate Poling, CEO of HomeBase Youth Services. Youthful patients of the Medical Clinic will be available for interviews. The new mobile unit will be on display, and tours will be available.

The Clinic,, outfitted with the latest technology was donated to Phoenix Children's by the Children's Health Fund with the stipulation that in case of national disasters, the van would be used as a response unit. The unit has two large medical exam rooms, fully equipped with the latest medical equipment, a nursing station, 3 refrigerators, a freezer to transport vaccines, 4 air conditioners, a powerful generator and a state-of-the-art tracking dish, that when activated makes the van wireless capable anywhere in the world. This will be particularly useful when used as a response vehicle for national disasters, but also helps staff access information daily from the web. Staff can apply for AHCCS immediately, get patient medical records and in the event of disaster would work as a satellite phone.

"We thank the Children's Health Fund for this generous donation, which will allow us to continue our mission providing hope and holistic healthcare with respect and heart for homeless and at-risk youth. During the last few years we've treated the homeless for literally thousands of medical conditions, screening for sexually transmitted disease, and immunizing homeless youth for preventable childhood and adolescent diseases such as Hepatitis B." said Randy Christensen, MD, Medical Director of Crews'n Healthmobile. Christensen emphasizes the importance of education for this population and the medical staff educate, and counsel youth daily about sexually transmitted infections, abstinence, HIV, Hepatitis, depression, anxiety, mood disorders, suicide risk, substance abuse, pregnancy, smoking cessation, nutrition, relationships, safety issues, and self care.

The Children's Health Fund (CHF) is committed to providing health care to the nation's most medically underserved children and their families through the development and support of innovative primary care medical programs, response to public health crises, and the promotion of guaranteed access to appropriate health care for all children.

HomeBase Youth Services is a non-profit agency with the mission of teaching at-risk and homeless youth how to live healthy and independent lives. The goal is to get homeless youth off the streets and on the path toward healthy and independent lives.

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 caring only for children, all contribute to Phoenix Children's leadership position. For information, visit the Hospital's web site at [www.phoenixchildrens.com](http://www.phoenixchildrens.com).