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Phoenix Children's Hospital Introduces Crews'n Health Mobile II

The Children's Health Fund and HomeBase 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 26th, at 10 a.m. at Phoenix Children's Hospital.

In the fall of 2000, an innovative partnership was formed between Phoenix Children's Hospital, The 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.

Dr. Irwin Redlener, nationally known pediatrician, President and Co-Founder of The Children's Health Fund, will be speaking at the event, as well as Dr. Randy Christensen, Medical Director of the mobile unit, and Mary Kate Poling, CEO of HomeBase Youth Services. 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 will 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 if the mobile unit is needed in response to a national disaster, but also helps staff access information daily from the web. Staff can immediately apply for AHCCS, get patient medical records, and in the event of disaster will have access to 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 the 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.

Founded in 1987 by pediatrician/advocate Irwin Redlener, MD, and singer/songwriter Paul Simon, The Children's Health Fund (CHF) works nationally to develop health care programs for the most medically underserved population- homeless and disadvantaged children. To date, CHF's 21 pediatric programs have provided essential primary care services in more than one million patient visits. Soon after Hurricane Katrina devastated thousands of miles of the Gulf Coast, The Children's Health Fund responded to the urgent health and public health needs by establishing Operation Assist, a collaboration with the National Center for Disaster Preparedness (NCDP) at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. This new Phoenix mobile unit will be part of CHF's disaster response network.

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.

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