



United Medical Center and Children's National Medical Center Establish First Pediatric Emergency Department East of the River

Mayor Fenty Announces \$11 Million Grant to Fund Construction

WASHINGTON, DC (December 12, 2008) – D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty announced plans this week to establish a new pediatric emergency department at the recently renovated United Medical Center (UMC), located at 1310 Southern Avenue in Southeast Washington.

Staffed by personnel from Children's National Medical Center and formally branded as a Children's facility within UMC, the project will be funded by an \$11 million DC Government grant, part of a government initiative to award \$51 million in grants to enhance primary and emergency medical care in underserved areas of the city. Construction will begin shortly after the New Year, with the new facility expected to open in late 2009.

"This announcement is yet another critical step in our journey to provide the highest possible level of care to families east of the river," said UMC Chief Executive Officer Frank DeLisi. "By affiliating with Children's National Medical Center, UMC will provide residents with immediate access to world-class pediatric care right here in their own community." According to DeLisi, an average of 15,000 children from Wards 7 and 8 seek medical care annually at Children's main campus, located nearly 10 miles away at 111 Michigan Avenue N.E. "For many families in this community, that means a 45-minute ride, each way, by public transportation."

The new pediatric emergency department initiative is the latest in a long list of achievements by UMC's parent company – Specialty Hospitals of America (SHA) – since it purchased the embattled Greater Southeast Community Hospital in November 2007. SHA subsequently renovated and re-branded the facility as United Medical Center, paving the way for developments such as this week's announcement.

"This project is specialty healthcare at its best," said Eric Rieseberg, President of SHA and Chairman and President of UMC. "We're extremely grateful to Children's for their involvement and participation. Such a partnership is a win-win for everybody – Children's National, United Medical Center and, of course, the residents of Wards 7 and 8 and their children, who will now receive a level of care previously unavailable through this facility."

One of the major architects of United Medical Center's progress, DC Councilman David Catania (At-Large), praised the efforts of the Mayor, City Council, the D.C. Department of Health and the administration and staff of the hospital for their accomplishments to date. "I cannot say enough about what UMC has done in the last year at this facility," he said. "Had we not stitched together the partnership with Specialty Hospitals of America, this hospital would not even be around today. A year from now, I look forward to being right back here cutting a ribbon to open a center designed specifically to serve the children of Wards 7 and 8."



Children's National operates one of the largest pediatric emergency departments in the country, treating more than 70,000 patients per year, and is a Level I Pediatric Trauma Center. Emergency care is supervised by board-certified pediatric emergency physicians and all pediatric subspecialties are available for emergency consultations. Children's also is one of the District of Columbia's largest primary care providers, offering a medical home to the most underserved Washington, DC, communities via three mobile medical units and several Children's Health Centers throughout the city – three of which are located east of the river.

Joseph Wright, MD, MPH, pediatric emergency medicine physician at Children's National concurs. "By adding a satellite pediatric emergency department staffed by Children's National personnel, we can be sure that children receive appropriate, high quality emergency medical care close to home," he said.

About United Medical Center

United Medical Center has provided medical services to residents of the Washington metropolitan area since 1965. Under the leadership of Specialty Hospitals of America, LLC, United Medical Center is committed to its evolution into a full-service, state-of-the-art facility where physicians and staff provide expertise in medical and surgical specialties with the combined results of improved patient care and a sustainable business model.

About Children's National Medical Center

Children's National Medical Center, located in Washington, DC, is a proven leader in the development of innovative new treatments for childhood illness and injury. Children's has been serving the nation's children for more than 135 years. Children's National is proudly ranked among the best pediatric hospitals in America by US News & World Report and the Leapfrog Group. For more information, visit www.childrensnational.org.

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