

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children Receives \$5,000 Grant
from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation**

(DALLAS, April 11, 2007) – Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children (TSRHC) recently received a \$5,000 Quality of Life grant from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation (CRF). The Health Promotion grant will support the Successful Bridges Teen Program at TSRHC. The Successful Bridges Teen Program seeks to assist teens with spina bifida to build bridges to self-sufficiency and support families as their teens achieve developmental milestones.

“We are truly honored to have TSRHC’s Successful Bridges Teen Program recognized by such a well-respected and internationally renowned foundation, such as the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation,” said J. C. Montgomery, Jr., president of Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. “This innovative program helps to ease the transition into independent adulthood by providing teens with spina bifida the tools and confidence to be self-sufficient, and that has a lasting impact on the lives of those living with disabilities.”

Spina bifida is a neural tube defect that happens in the first month of pregnancy when the spinal column of the fetus doesn’t close completely. TSRHC treats the largest patient population of children with spina bifida in Texas, with more than 900 active patients ages birth to 18 years with the diagnosis. Most children with this condition are part- or full-time wheelchair users.

The funds from the grant will be used to support the hospital’s Successful Bridges Teen Program, which includes Teen Clinic and quarterly Saturday sessions for teens with spina bifida and their families. The Teen Clinic provides an environment for these teens to develop self-directed health maintenance skills and educates teens about effectively communicating their medical history and personal information to physicians, nurses and other health care staff, preparing teens to function in an adult health care model. Approximately 10 teens, ages 14 to 18 years, are seen in TSRHC’s Teen Clinic each month.

Unique to the TSRHC Successful Bridges Program is its quarterly Saturday sessions that include teens with spina bifida and their families. Saturday sessions utilize a future planning model that helps teens and their families identify future goals and helps them to work toward those goals. Sessions offer parents

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resources and a support system that enable them to work toward a desired future, and they provide teens the opportunity to learn and practice social skills, as well as build friendships with others who face similar challenges.

“The Successful Bridges Program has really taught me to be more active and independent and to communicate better,” said Jacob Adkins, age 17 of Garland, Texas. “It has also helped me make more friends.”

The CRF awarded a total of \$717,404 in Quality of Life grants to 90 nonprofits around the world. The Quality of Life program was conceived by the late Dana Reeve as a way to help improve the day-to-day health and well-being of those living with paralysis. The grants recognize and support programs that enable people with disabilities to live independent, active lives.

Health Promotion grants, a special category of Quality of Life grants, are funded through a cooperative agreement between CRF and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Funding is awarded to nonprofits that address the needs of people living with paralysis caused by spinal cord injuries and other diseases and birth conditions that result in paralysis. These grants strive to remove societal and environmental barriers that limit the abilities of individuals living with paralysis to participate in life activities.

The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation

The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information and advocacy. The Foundation funds a variety of national, regional and local initiatives that benefit both children and adults living with paralysis, especially those with spinal cord injuries.

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children is one of the nation's leading pediatric centers for the treatment of orthopedic conditions, certain related neurological disorders and learning disorders, such as dyslexia. There is no charge to patient families for treatment at the hospital, and admission is open to Texas children from birth to 18 years of age. For more information, to volunteer or to make a donation, please call (214) 559-5000 or (800) 421-1121 or visit www.tsrhc.org.