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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **Children's Hospital Ready to Begin Demolition On Future Site of Specialty Pediatric Center**

### ***Five-story Addition Located at Southeast Corner of 84<sup>th</sup> & West Dodge Road***

OMAHA, Neb. – With a countdown and a ceremonial hit, Children's Hospital kicked off demolition on Nov. 19 at a site inauguration for its new Specialty Pediatric Center. The facility, which will provide expanded space for outpatient specialty care, will be located at the southeast corner of 84<sup>th</sup> & West Dodge Road.

“The new center will enable us to continue providing leading edge specialty health care services for children from the community, greater Nebraska and the region,” said Gary A. Perkins, CHE, president and chief executive officer of Children's Hospital. “It represents our continued commitment to caring for children now and into the future. We anticipate that in just the next seven years, this center will be meeting the health care needs of nearly 60,000 children annually.”

Four of the five floors of the Specialty Pediatric Center will connect to the Suzanne and Walter Scott Pavilion, providing children and their families with easy navigation and convenient access to physicians and outpatient services, including office visits. Parking in the area will also be improved with the addition of nearly 400 parking stalls, a majority of which will be located in a multi level garage underneath the building.

“Elevators in the garage will help maximize access and convenience for families,” explained Scott Kaminski, vice president of support services at Children's Hospital. “The design is such that

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patients will be able to go from the garage directly to the floor where their doctor's office is located."

"With the new specialty center, we are addressing our patients' needs for more services available in a convenient setting," added Vanessa Walls, vice president of ambulatory care at Children's Hospital. "People come from all over the region to see our pediatric specialists, and this new center will make it easier for them to access our services."

For the family of Tom and Lori Eyth of Omaha, the new center will provide a natural extension of the care they've come to depend on.

"Our son, Jacob, was diagnosed with cancer when he was just two years old. We spent nearly an entire year in the old Children's Hospital watching the new building take shape," explained Lori Eyth. "Even now, at age eleven, he sees many different specialists. We're excited about the possibilities with the new center."

The Eyth's youngest child, five-year-old Mary, has also needed numerous procedures and careful monitoring to overcome early feeding difficulties. And, just this year, eight-year-old Elizabeth Eyth became a Children's Hospital patient. She and her siblings all required the same surgery to correct severe acid reflux.

"We feel so very blessed to have such wonderful doctors, nurses, child life specialists, and more who have taken such great care of our children," shared Eyth. "Children's Hospital has given our children a second chance at life!"

The 135,000 square foot Specialty Pediatric Center will set the standard for clinical innovation and technology, while also catering to the needs of young patients like the Eyths.

"We'll integrate vibrant colors and child-friendly features to carry over the soothing atmosphere found in the hospital," said Kaminski.

Total cost for the project is estimated at \$55 million. It will be funded from operational reserves, philanthropic donations and proceeds from a recent bond issue.

Demolition of existing buildings at the southeast corner of 84<sup>th</sup> & West Dodge Road will span the next three months, with site preparation and utility work to begin in January 2008. The Specialty Pediatric Center is expected to be open for occupancy in January 2010.

Children's Hospital has selected HDR as the architect for the project. Kiewit Building Group will serve as the construction manager.

*Proudly serving children since 1948, Children's Hospital is the only full-service, pediatric health care center in Nebraska. Located in Omaha, it provides expertise in more than 30 pediatric specialty services to children and families across a five-state region and beyond. The 142-bed, non-profit hospital is home to a nationally recognized eating disorders program and houses the only dedicated pediatric emergency department in the region. Children's Hospital has achieved the Magnet designation for nursing excellence and in 2007, received the first President's Award presented by Eclipsys Corp. Children's is the primary teaching site for the family practice and joint pediatric residency programs at Creighton University and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. For more information on Children's Hospital go to [www.chsomaha.org](http://www.chsomaha.org).*

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