



Contact:
Celine Petrossian
818.952.2213

Toy Drive a Success at Verdugo Hills Hospital

(GLENDALE, CA – December 5, 2007) – From Razors and Cabbage Patch Kids to board games, blankets and clothing, community members and employees of Verdugo Hills Hospital (VHH) gave back to the homeless and working poor of Los Angeles County by supporting the efforts of the Union Rescue Mission's (URM) Christmas Toy Drive during November at VHH. More than 40 bags of toys and gifts were donated to the Mission.

“Verdugo Hills Hospital is an amazing place with a wonderful, giving staff,” said Reverend Andy Bales, CEO of URM. “As we are fast approaching the time for our Christmas Store and short of gifts for our struggling children, Verdugo Hills Hospital has come through in a big way. Thank you for making a holiday blessing possible for our precious children.”

“It was wonderful to see the generous response from our staff and community members to this appeal,” said VHH President and CEO Len LaBella. “Hopefully, this gift distribution will provide lasting fond memories of a gift received and a gift given.”

To follow up with the Toy Drive, LaBella will join VHH Vice President of Business Development Viktoria Meyers, and VHH Marketing/PR Specialist Celine Petrossian as they visit URM’s Christmas store on December 13 and 14 to help wrap gifts for the children and their parents.

All items donated during the Toy Drive will be arranged on shelves at URM’s Christmas Store this month. Each year, during the holidays, URM converts its chapel into a department store and invites the homeless and working poor of Los Angeles to come in and “shop” for their children. They provide thousands of free gifts and wrap each one for the parents to give to their children on Christmas Day. As part of the Campaign, donation items are also recommended for the children’s parents since the Christmas Store shelves items for the children to give to their parents on Christmas Day.

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Verdugo Hills Hospital, located at 1812 Verdugo Boulevard, Glendale, CA 91208, is a 158-bed nonprofit primary care facility nestled in the foothills between Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge. The hospital features all private rooms, 24-hour emergency services, comprehensive inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment facilities, and a family birthing center. It is the only independent, free-standing hospital in the greater Foothills community and was voted “Foothill’s Best Hospital” for 2007 by readers of the *Glendale News-Press*. Several physicians on staff also received recognition as the best in the community, including: Dr. Scott W. Beeve, Foothills Best Ophthalmologist; Dr. Allan W. Perry, Jr., Foothills Best Plastic Surgeon; Dr. Richard L. Rupp, Foothills Best Podiatrist; Dr. William F. Schubert, Foothills Best Family Physician; Dr. Jane S. Wada, Foothills Best Dermatologist; and Dr. Ronald D. Woodard, Foothills Best Obstetrician/Gynecologist. For more information, please visit www.vhhospital.org.

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