



**White Plains
Hospital Center**

News Release

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For Immediate Release

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White Plains Hospital Center To Celebrate 15th Annual Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Reunion Day, Nov. 16

*More Than 700 Parents and Children
To Participate In Festive Salute to Healthy Premies*

White Plains, NY (November 2008) – A record gathering of more than 700 parents and their children, many of whom were delivered prematurely at White Plains Hospital Center (WPHC), will gather on Sunday morning, November 16 at the Marriott Hotel, Tarrytown, to participate in the Hospital's 15th Annual NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) Reunion.

The celebration, which also coincides with Prematurity Awareness Month being observed nationally throughout November, also marks the seventh anniversary of the opening of the Hospital's William and Sylvia Silberstein Neonatal & Maternity Center, where over 400 preemies were delivered in 2007. The maternity center delivered the most number of babies in Westchester—more than 2,100 were born there last year.

The celebration will also include a special visit by Dr. Ted. E. Bear and the children will have the opportunity to have their faces painted.

For Jesus Jaile-Marti, M.D., the Hospital's Chief of Neonatology, the NICU Reunion will be a nostalgic occasion because he has been affiliated with the Hospital since its first NICU opened in 1993 to help premature and ill newborn babies survive. He said: "It's hard to believe that over the past 15 years, 4,655 preemies were admitted to and cared for at our NICU. Most of them were very, very fragile, the smallest weighing only 1.1 pounds." Dr. Jaile-Marti continued: "The wonderful news is seeing many of these newborns as healthy young children at this annual gathering. That's quite a testimony about how the advances in medicine and quality care have contributed not only to the survival rate but to the healthy development of these former preemies."

The Hospital opened the new and expanded NICU in 2001 as part of the William and Sylvia Silberstein Neonatal & Maternity Center Unit—a \$5.5 million, 30,000 square foot unit. It features labor and delivery suites, a maternity pavilion and a neonatology pavilion that all have comprehensive state-of-the-art medical equipment and 24-hour coverage by board-certified neonatologists and neonatal-trained registered nurses. The Unit has 15 beds for infants born as early as 24 weeks, including three isolation rooms for immune-deficient, contagious and surgical newborns.

In 2003, the New York State Department of Health awarded the Unit a Level III designation, the highest level of care a community hospital can receive in caring for premature and at-risk infants.

According to the March of Dimes, prematurity has been escalating over the past two decades. Today, in the U.S, one out of eight babies is born prematurely (less than 37 months of gestation) and pre-term delivery can happen to any woman.

White Plains Hospital Center (WPHC) is a 292-bed voluntary, not-for-profit health care organization with the primary mission of offering high quality, acute health care and preventive medical care to all people who live in, work in or visit Westchester County and its surrounding areas. Centers of Excellence include the Dickstein Cancer Treatment Center, The William & Sylvia Silberstein Neonatal & Maternity Center, The Ruth and Jerome A. Siegel Stroke Center and The Westchester Orthopedic Institute. The Hospital has the busiest Emergency Department in Westchester County, treating more than 45,000 patients a year. White Plains Hospital Center is a seven-time winner of the Consumer Choice Award, an honor given to the nation's top hospitals by the National Research Corporation. WPHC is a member of the New York-Presbyterian Healthcare System and the Stellaris Health Network, Inc. For additional information, visit www.wphospital.org.