



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release...

Heart Hospital Celebrates 2nd Anniversary

10/28/2001 - Albuquerque, New Mexico: The Heart Hospital of New Mexico, the state's first and only facility dedicated entirely to cardiovascular care, celebrates its second anniversary of service this month. Since its opening, this specialty hospital has become New Mexico's leading heart care program, treating more than 11,000 patients. With more than 30 cardiologists and cardiothoracic surgeons on staff, Heart Hospital performs more heart procedures than any other facility in the state. "This is an ideal environment for both patients and doctors. The Heart Hospital brings patient care to an entirely new level," said cardiologist Dr. Barry Ramo

The Heart Hospital has been noted for its unique patient-focused care model, which includes innovative healing programs to address body, mind and spirit. The soothing music therapy provided by Certified Music Practitioner Sue Hoadley, a classical harpist, is a favorite of patients.

State-of-the-art technologies form the basis for the Heart Hospital's comprehensive approach to treatment and care. As one example, in January 2001, a patient received the first Transmyocardial Revascularization (TMR) surgery, a minimally invasive procedure that utilizes a CO2 laser system to create new bloodlines in areas of the heart that are restricted by plaque. (Dr. Paul Levy, a cardiothoracic surgeon with the New Mexico Heart Institute, performed the surgery.) Since that date, more than 50 patients have received TMR surgery at the Heart Hospital, the only place in New Mexico where it is available.

The Heart Hospital has over 280 team members and more than 160 physicians and specialists on staff to treat any medical condition necessary.

Located on an 8-acre campus near downtown Albuquerque, the Heart Hospital of New Mexico is an entire medical facility dedicated to fighting heart disease. The specialty hospital results from the shared vision of the New Mexico Heart Institute (NMHI) and Southwest Cardiology Associates (SWCA), the same talented cardiovascular physician groups that pioneered New Mexico's heart programs and established Albuquerque as a leader in heart care. Other partners include St. Joseph Healthcare, a not-for-profit Albuquerque healthcare system with a 98-year history of community service, and MedCath, a North Carolina-based firm that manages cardiac hospitals nationwide.

###