



Harris County Hospital District

MEDIA RELEASE

Media Contact: John F. Martinez
Office: 713-566-6486
Cell: 713-301-6250
John_Martinez@hchd.tmc.edu
On-call pager: 713-566-6430

Houston Roller Derby Champions to Honor HCHD Safety Contest Winners *Pasadena elementary students will participate in helmet safety activities at festival*

HOUSTON (Oct. 3, 2006) – The Psych Ward Sirens, the 2006 winners of the women’s professional Houston Roller Derby, will visit Pasadena’s Deepwater Elementary Friday, Oct. 6 to present prizes to the students for their participation in the Harris County Hospital District’s Helmet Safety Injury Prevention Program.

Spearheaded by the Trauma Services Department at HCHD’s Ben Taub General Hospital, 10 fourth- and fifth-graders will receive prizes for their winning poster entries on bike safety and the proper use of helmets.

“Elementary-aged children are most vulnerable to traumatic head injuries caused by falling from bikes, skateboards and other activities,” said Sheila Henderson, outreach coordinator for Ben Taub General Hospital. “Having these youngsters learn the importance of properly using their helmets and other safety measures is going to keep them out of our emergency rooms.”

The grand prize winner will receive a bike and safety helmet, while the other winning children will all receive safety helmets. Funding for the helmets was donated by Hard Hats for Little Heads, the Texas Medical Association Foundation, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, and the Texas Office for Prevention of Disabilities. The top 10 posters will be displayed for a month at the Children’s Museum of Houston.

Ben Taub employees will be on hand to host a Helmet Safety Festival with popcorn, various games, and face painting, and the Psych Ward Sirens will perform a skating exhibition to demonstrate to students that it’s fun and cool to prevent injuries. Representatives from the Pasadena Police Bike Patrol will also be on hand to demonstrate safety precautions.

WHAT: Helmet Safety Injury Prevention Program

WHEN: noon – 2 p .m. Friday, Oct. 6, 2006

WHERE: Deepwater Elementary, 309 Glenmore, Pasadena

FEATURING: Skating exhibition by colorfully costumed Psych Ward Sirens, popcorn, safety tips, face painting and games

###