



Harris County Hospital District

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Northwest Health Center Staff, Patients Are Their Valentines

HOUSTON (Feb. 7, 2007) – Patients at the Harris County Hospital District’s Northwest Health Center are in for a year of surprises as staff will be distributing gifts of appreciation to them every month beginning, appropriately enough, on Valentine’s Day.

“Some of our patients have been with us for 30 years,” said Sue Bryan, the center’s director. “This is just a way to give back to our patients and thank them for being with us throughout the years.”

The idea for the program, dubbed Northwest Angel Network, began when a staff member came into work on day recently and saw a patient wearing slippers in the cold weather.

“We knew we could do more for our patients, other than our annual Christmas basket giveaway,” said Suzette Hall-Hoyte, senior medical technologist at Northwest. “So far, 40 employees have donated money.”

Each participating employee donates \$10 to the program, which is used to buy gifts and goodies for the patients. Each month has a theme. February is “Valentines,” March is “March Madness” and April is “Spring Cleaning.”

For the “Spring Cleaning” month, staff will donate their own gently used clothing and give patients an entire outfit.

In addition, the Northwest Council members – a group made up of patients and community members who offer ideas to improve the health center – have volunteered to participate in the fundraising drive. This gives them an opportunity to meet the public and encourage new members to join.

WHAT: Northwest Health Center Patient Appreciation Day

WHEN: 9 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2007

WHERE: 1100 W. 34th St., Houston

The Harris County Hospital District is the public health care system for the nation’s third most-populous county. It provides more than 1.1 million health care visits each year to uninsured and underinsured residents of Harris County. The hospital district operates Ben Taub General Hospital, Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, Quentin Mease Community Hospital, 12 community health centers, a dental center, eight school-based clinics, 13 homeless shelter clinics and four mobile health units.

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