



MEDIA RELEASE

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HCHD Receives Key to the City of New Orleans

HOUSTON (April 26, 2007) – The Harris County Hospital District received the key to the City of New Orleans, along with several other special gifts, at the April 26 Board of Managers meeting in recognition of the hospital district’s efforts to provide health care to Katrina evacuees at the HCHD Astrodome Clinic in September, 2005.

Louisiana State Representative Austin Badon presented HCHD with a key to the City of News Orleans from Mayor Ray Nagin, a presentation bowl from Governor Kathleen Blanco, and proclamations from Nagin, Blanco and Louisiana’s Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu.

“I never thought such a large natural disaster would happen in my city,” Badon said. “I just want to thank you for your outpouring of support, generosity and kindness you all expressed to our citizens. We appreciate everything you did for our people.”

Badon’s own uncle was treated in the Astrodome Health Clinic, which in two weeks saw more than 11,000 patients.

“We learned much about ourselves while we helped our friends and neighbors out,” said George V. Masi, COO. “Our staff did a great job helping those who needed help.”

The hospital district was nominated for this recognition by HIS Clinical Manager Cherina Thomas.

“As a native of New Orleans, I know how much effort it took to put the Astrodome Clinic together in such a short period of time,” Thomas said. “Plus, I don’t think we say thank you often enough for things people do for each other.”

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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