



For Immediate Release

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Hope Family Care Center Welcomes First Full-Time Physician

Jeremy Kirchoff, MD, joins the non-profit through a partnership with Research Medical Center.

Kansas City, MO.—(Feb. 22, 2011)—On a wintery Saturday morning on the east side of Kansas City, Missouri, the waiting room at Hope Family Care Center (HFCC) is bustling. Patients chat while waiting for their appointments. Nurses greet patients by name, calling them back to the exam rooms. An adult diabetes education class is underway down the hall.

Before HFCC opened its doors in fall 2009 at 3027 Prospect Ave., there was no primary care facility available in the immediate neighborhood. During the first year and a half of operation, HFCC was staffed by a rotation of doctors and nurses who volunteered their time to see patients. HFCC was only open in the mornings, making it difficult for some patients to make appointments. Despite the challenges, HFCC has treated more than 1,200 patients since its inception.

Now HFCC is welcoming its first full-time doctor. Jeremy Kirchoff, MD, a family practice and obstetrics physician, comes to HFCC through a partnership with Research Medical Center. Dr. Kirchoff is the primary physician for HFCC patients and also provides prenatal care for expectant mothers. In order to provide the neglected east side neighborhood with adequate medical care, Research—part of HCA Midwest Health System, Kansas City's largest healthcare network—is committing more than \$600,000 over two years. This investment in the east side's healthcare will allow HFCC to retain a full-time staff and extend operating hours.

The funding will enable HFCC to address the medical needs of more people like Denise Hudson, who, despite her busy schedule, has made a special effort to attend the diabetes class on a cold winter morning. "At any other clinic, I wouldn't have shown up for something like this," Hudson says. "But because of the way they treat me here, I want to come."

Hudson first sought medical treatment at HFCC a year ago, and because of the care she receives there, her diabetes is now under control. The staff at HFCC found affordable medication for her. She is eating properly, and in November she quit smoking.

"When my doctor heard I quit smoking, she stopped and took the time to hear my story," Hudson says. "She wanted to know how I did it. She was so proud of me."

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Page two

Hope Family Care Center Welcomes First Full-Time Physician

As a patient at HFCC, Hudson feels respected by the staff. She likes the prompt attention she receives and since it's only three minutes from her home, HFCC is accessible. And when the need has arisen, some of the doctors have even bowed their heads and prayed with her.

"The doctors here are prayerful," says Hudson. "They take the time to talk to me, they want to help me and they are really here because they want to be. They treat me like family."

It was the strong Christian values and emphasis on community restoration that attracted Dr. Kirchoff to HFCC. "When Research Medical Center gave me the opportunity to join Hope Family Care Center, I was thrilled. This is an organization that is taking a holistic, multi-faceted approach to investing in a neighborhood," says Dr. Kirchoff. "I want to be part of a community that, through the love of Christ, is also addressing the larger problems that are present in the neighborhood."

Jake Latta, the COO of the Hope Center, HFCC's parent organization, says Dr. Kirchoff's arrival is a key component to community development on the east side. "The goal is for neighborhood restoration," he said. "The Hope Center wants to be a catalyst that creates opportunities for neighborhood residents. HFCC plays a big part in that strategy."

HFCC hopes that the community will view them as a neighborhood partner and ally, and will take the opportunity to proactively address their medical needs. The end goal is a healthier, thriving community. Latta says he is grateful for Research Medical Center's involvement in making a full-time physician available to HFCC patients. "It helps build a better quality of life for them," he says.

Kevin Hicks, chief executive officer of Research Medical Center, says the partnership is an important part of the hospital's community outreach. "We are a part of this community and want residents to have access to quality and compassionate healthcare for themselves and their families," he says. "Dr. Kirchoff emulates the professional values representative of Research Medical Center, which has served the Kansas City area for 125 years."

As for Hudson, she plans to continue receiving treatment for diabetes at the HFCC. In the fall, the doctors there told her she could stop taking insulin, and her next goal is to forgo medication completely. "When they told me I could come off of insulin, it was the best day of my life," she says. "I feel excited, like I can conquer diabetes. Now my next step is to start exercising. They inspire me."

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About Research Medical Center

Research Medical Center serves patients from a 150-mile region surrounding Kansas City by providing an abundance of services and access to advanced technology. The hospital, located at 2316 East Meyer Boulevard in Kansas City, Mo., is one of the region's leading acute care hospitals. The 511-bed facility features a broad range of highly specialized, state-of-the-art services. In addition, the 37-acre Research Brookside Campus, located at 6601 Rockhill Road in Kansas City, Mo., includes outpatient facilities, medical office buildings, and a comprehensive health and fitness center. Research Medical Center has received the Get With The Guidelines Coronary Artery Disease- Gold; the Get With the Guidelines Heart Failure-Gold Plus; and the Get With the Guidelines Stroke-Gold Plus Performance Achievement Awards from the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association and was recognized in the August 2010 issue of *US News & World Report*. A total of 961 awards are given for achievement in Coronary Artery Disease, Stroke and/or heart failure treatment. Of 961, Research Medical Center was one of 33 to receive a Triple Gold Award. For more information, go to www.researchmedicalcenter.com and www.researchbrookside.com.

Page three

Hope Family Care Center Welcomes First Full-Time Physician

About HCA Midwest Health System

HCA Midwest Health System is the Kansas City area's largest healthcare network, consisting of 10 hospitals, outpatient centers, clinics, physician practices, surgery centers and an array of other services to meet the healthcare needs of the greater Kansas City area. It is also the area's largest private sector employer with more than 8,000 employees. HCA Midwest facilities serving the Kansas City area include Research Medical Center, Research Psychiatric Center, Centerpoint Medical Center, Overland Park Regional Medical Center, Menorah Medical Center, Lee's Summit Medical Center, Research Belton Hospital, Lafayette Regional Health Center, Allen County Hospital and Cass Regional Medical Center. Midwest Physicians, which is part of HCA Midwest, is a

network of experienced, multi-specialty physicians located throughout the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area. Midwest Physicians currently represents 273 physicians, including 113 primary care providers and 160 specialists with 70 physician practices providing care in 112 locations to serve the community. The physicians, licensed professionals and support staff who comprise the HCA Midwest team are dedicated to improving healthcare in the Greater Kansas City and outlying areas by focusing on five guiding principles: Quality, Service, People, Growth and Value. For more information on HCA Midwest Health System visit www.hcamidwest.com.

About Hope Family Care Center

Hope Family Care Center (HFCC) was established in 2009 on the east side of Kansas City, Missouri to meet the medical needs of an under-served urban community. The goal of HFCC is to make high-quality primary health care available to all members of the community, regardless of income. Through consistent, preventative medical care, HFCC desires to be a contributing factor to lasting community renewal. HFCC accepts most medical insurance, Medicaid and Medicare. Payment for uninsured patients is assessed on a sliding scale.