

For immediate release:

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Plano ISD's Memorial Elementary receives \$10,000 gift from The Medical Center of Plano

(Plano, Texas, September 4, 2009) – Students and faculty of Memorial Elementary School today welcomed representatives from The Medical Center of Plano and offered a heartfelt thank you for the hospital's recent \$10,000 investment in their school.

Students lined the hallways and greeted hospital CEO Troy Villarreal and Vice President of Marketing Mary Jo Dean, gave a brief tour to showcase a few ways the school has benefited from their long-term relationship with The Medical Center of Plano and heard remarks from Villarreal and Memorial Elementary School Principal Maricela Helm.

The \$10,000 gift will fund art supplies and science lab materials. Additionally, one of the goals of this enhanced commitment by the hospital is to help improve the school's accountability rating. "The Medical Center of Plano has been a business partner with Memorial since 1991. This donation will provide additional resources for teachers and students in support of Memorial's goal of becoming an exemplary school," said Villarreal.

Principal Helm said, "Our theme this school year is 'Heroes,' and we can thank no greater heroes than the staff and board of Medical Center of Plano. This most recent \$10,000 gift will help us purchase beneficial programs for students, including a large Grand Canyon exhibit to correlate with our science curriculum. Medical Center of Plano has also purchased Plano ISD spirit shirts for our entire staff through the Plano Principals Association and the sales of which also benefit local student scholarships and area nonprofits who serve our community.



“Memorial appreciates Medical Center of Plano for customizing its giving to our school by inquiring about our needs. Thanks to the hospital, we started the year with more than enough school supplies and backpacks for students in need.

Medical Center also provided every student with printed planning/calendar agendas for the school year. The hospital sponsors Memorial’s annual Stay in School Assembly, holiday gift giving and much more. We look forward to having Medical Center of Plano staff members helping out as mentors and volunteering at school events like our fall carnival and spring field day.”

In one of many gestures of appreciation, the staff at Memorial decorated a large trophy case in the center of the school with “hero” items to salute the hospital. Ten cow bells represent \$1,000 each for the hospital’s latest generous gift of \$10,000 to the school. The bells have been used by students and staff at special occasions.

“We hope that Medical Center of Plano’s generosity creates a greater cycle of giving by partners throughout the Plano school community,” said Principal Helm. “The financial security allows our teachers to do what they do best – teach – and not worry about needing supplies and resources.” She said that a sign of the school’s success is its very low teacher turnover rate. “I hired one new teacher to start this school year. That tells me that our staff members are motivated and have what they need without looking elsewhere for job satisfaction. It is also an indication of their commitment to our students.”

“Medical Center of Plano staff is motivated by the passion and dedication of the faculty and staff at Memorial Elementary School,” said Mary Jo Dean, marketing director for the hospital. “We continue to be a proud partner of the school and hope to make an even greater impact than ever this school year.”

About Plano Independent School District

The Plano Independent School District (Plano ISD) – <http://www.pisd.edu/> – endeavors to foster the highest level of student learning. The mission of Plano ISD is to provide an excellent education for all students. Plano ISD is located twenty miles north of Dallas, Texas and serves the residents of approximately 100



Plano Independent School District

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square miles in southwest Collin County, including 66 square miles in the city of Plano, northern portions of the cities of Dallas and Richardson and parts of the cities of Allen, Parker and Murphy. Plano ISD employs 7,000 faculty and staff members who serve more than 54,000 students in sixty-seven schools, three special programs including Head Start, and eleven service facilities. Participating in Plano ISD schools enables students to adapt to new learning opportunities throughout their lives, collaborate with, and contribute to, the global community and to be creative and disciplined in their thinking.

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