



Shriners Hospitals
for Children®
Springfield, Massachusetts

Contacts:

Bernadette A. White

Director of Public Relations

Shriners Hospitals for Children® – Springfield

413.735.1291

bwhite@shrinenet.org

Kelly Coffey

Media and Public Relations Manager

Connecticut Children's Medical Center

860.610.5701

kcoffey@connecticutchildrens.org

News Release

July 20, 2012

**Shriners Hospitals for Children® & Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Propose Partnership Plan to Enhance Pediatric Services in the Region**

Hartford, Conn./Springfield, Mass. – A partnership proposal to align the services of Shriners Hospitals for Children,® Springfield, MA and Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Hartford, CT was presented to the Shrine delegates at the 138th Imperial Session held in Charlotte, NC earlier this month. The proposed multi-phase plan outlines opportunities for both hospitals to combine clinical and financial resources to expand pediatric subspecialty services to children in the New England and Upstate New York regions.

“Our goal for proposing a mutually beneficial long-term partnership with Connecticut Children's is to increase operational efficiencies, grow our core orthopaedic volume and expand subsurgical specialty services offered at Shriners Hospitals in Springfield, while preserving our mission and strengthening our identity,” stated Charles R. Walczak, Shriners Hospital Administrator. “For its partnership commitment, Connecticut Children's will be positioned to obtain significant market share in several surgical subspecialties and expand its reputation outside Connecticut.

“As these partnership opportunities are being explored, our local board members want to assure the Shriners Hospital family that securing a viable and sustainable future for the hospital is at the heart of our discussions with the leadership team at Connecticut Children's. Our commitment to future generations remains as strong as our legacy to the countless children whose lives Shriners Hospital has changed over the past 87 years,” stated David H. Burstein, Esq., Hospital Board Chairman.

“Both Connecticut Children’s and Shriners Hospital have a distinguished history of providing the highest level of care to children,” said Martin J. Gavin, President and CEO of Connecticut Children’s. “We’re looking forward to working closely with Shriners Hospital to expand this care for more children and families in our region.”

During the Imperial Session, the Planning Committee from the Joint Boards of Shriners Hospitals for Children unanimously approved the proposal set forth by the Springfield hospital to pursue partnership opportunities with Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.

###

Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, the region’s only academic medical center dedicated exclusively to the care of children, is committed to improving children’s physical and emotional health through family-centered care, research, education and advocacy. Named one of America’s Best Children’s Hospitals by U.S. News and World Report, Connecticut Children’s offers a full range of quality pediatric services at its hospitals in Hartford and Waterbury, NICUs in Hartford and Farmington, Specialty Care Centers in Farmington, Glastonbury, Hartford and Shelton, and 11 other practice locations.

For more information, visit www.connecticutchildrens.org and connect with us on Twitter (@ctchildrens) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/connecticutchildrens).

Shriners Hospitals for Children® is a pediatric health care system of 22 hospitals dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing specialty care, innovative research and outstanding teaching programs. Children up to age 18 with orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate are eligible for care and receive all services in a family-centered environment, regardless of the families’ ability to pay.
www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org.