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NEW SPECIALTY HOSPITAL WELCOMES THE CHILDREN OF HONDURAS

*CURE International's Facility in San Pedro Sula
Draws Hundreds of Patients in Its First Weeks*

Lemoine, Pa. March 27, 2009: For most of the hundreds of thousands of Honduran children suffering from orthopedic disabilities such as clubfoot, scoliosis and other conditions, the chance for a cure was remote. Accessing the specialized treatment needed to correct these conditions is almost impossible for all but the country's wealthiest families.

There is now hope for these children through a newly opened children's hospital in San Pedro Sula. CURE Honduras Pediatric Orthopedic Hospital is the country's first and only nonprofit hospital that specializes in pediatric orthopedics. It is operated by CURE International, the largest provider of pediatric specialty surgical care in the developing world.

"CURE International has been working in Honduras since 2004," said Dr. Scott Harrison, CURE International's president and CEO. "Thanks to the efforts of our generous donors, we have been able to realize the dream of building our own hospital here. The response has been overwhelming as we are seeing hundreds of children every month. This is a very exciting time for our team at the hospital, and we join them in celebration of the extraordinary work everyone is doing."

This hospital is a 1,600 square-meter, 20-bed facility that offers children with orthopedic disabilities sophisticated, first-world care. It is open to all, and no patient will be turned

away because his or her family lacks the financial resources to pay for treatment. Most of the surgeries the hospital performs are funded by donations from the United States.

The hospital opened in January to a flood of patients. In less than three months, more than 1,000 patients have been seen, and more than 50 surgeries performed. The hospital expects to serve more than 10,000 patients annually.

“Our new hospital is a symbol of hope for the disabled children of Honduras,” said Ruth Castro, the hospital’s executive director. “For so long in our country, it was an accepted fact that most children with orthopedic disabilities would never be cured, and a future of poverty and neglect awaited them. Now, our hospital offers them a chance for healing and the possibility that they can live a normal life. We have already welcomed hundreds of children, and we are committed to reaching thousands more in the coming years.”

Each patient at CURE Honduras Pediatric Orthopedic Hospital receives full-service care, including an evaluation, a hospital stay, surgery (if necessary) and follow-up care.

A dedicated social services team is also available to counsel patients during their hospital stay. To extend the reach of its care, the hospital sends mobile clinics to areas of the country where access to medical treatment is limited.

This facility also functions as a teaching hospital and will educate Honduran surgeons on specialized orthopedic surgical procedures.

To officially celebrate its grand opening, the facility will host an event on March 28. Honored dignitaries, including Honduras’ First Lady Xiomara Castro de Zelaya, are expected to be in attendance.

CURE International first established a presence in Honduras in 2004 when it began providing medical care for disabled children in San Pedro Sula through clinics at a local

government hospital. CURE Clubfoot Worldwide, an initiative of CURE International, has also operated a nationwide clubfoot program in the country since 2007.

About CURE International

Founded in 1996, CURE International is the largest provider of pediatric specialty surgical care in the developing world, transforming the lives of disabled children and their families through medical and spiritual healing. A nonprofit medical organization, CURE International specializes in the treatment of children with curable orthopedic and neurosurgical conditions. It also provides medical education and training programs to national medical professionals throughout the developing world. To date, it has performed more than 54,000 surgeries and seen more than 800,000 patients. Visit www.cureinternational.org for more information.

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