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## **LSU HOSPITALS ANNOUNCE \$400,000 FOR MOBILE HEALTH UNIT TO AID KATRINA'S VICTIMS**

*PFIZER DECLARES, "YOU HAVE NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN"*

**FEBRUARY 02, 2006**

BATON ROUGE, LA - Officials from Louisiana State University and its Health Care Services Division announced funding for a mobile ophthalmology unit to help aid the Medical Center of Louisiana at New Orleans, in providing care in areas still without medical facilities because of Hurricane Katrina. Today's announcement was accompanied by the presentation of a \$300,000 check from Pfizer Inc., which, together with funds from the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC), brings the company's total donation for the construction of the mobile health unit to \$400,000. Officials anticipate the mobile unit will be delivered to LSU in 90 days.

"We are pleased to be able to announce this exciting development in our efforts to bring critical health care to Louisianans who, since Katrina, have not been able to get the care they need," said Don Smithburg, EVP/CEO of Louisiana State University-Health Care Services Division. "Having a state-of-the-art mobile unit allows us to bring care to people in those areas where the health care infrastructure has not been redeveloped. We are thankful for Pfizer's generosity and their continued commitment to help Louisiana recover. "

Pfizer's donation to the Louisiana State University Foundation is the company's most recent contribution to post-Katrina rebuilding efforts. Since September, Pfizer has donated more than \$13 million in cash and pharmaceutical products, assisted in the development of an emergency pharmaceutical distribution warehouse in Louisiana, and deployed a disaster assistance "SWAT" team utilized earlier in 2005 during relief efforts following Indonesia's tsunami.

The LSU Health Care Services Division hospital and clinic system is the largest provider of health care in Louisiana, with more than 1.2 million patient visits annually to 350 outpatient clinics, and 46,000 admissions to eight hospitals.

“We have not forgotten you or your health care needs,” said Ken Ardoin, Pfizer Senior Director of Government Relations in Louisiana. “We were on the ground providing assistance three days after Katrina, we are here four months later, and we will continue to be here for the foreseeable future. Today’s donation is another example of Pfizer’s ongoing commitment to the people of Louisiana.”

The mobile unit is being specially designed and outfitted to meet the unique challenges of providing ophthalmic care to individuals still very much at risk. In the aftermath of last year’s hurricane, health care providers were forced to use temporary shelters, even tents, to provide care for people. Unfortunately, federal law prevents health care providers from getting reimbursed for services not performed in an approved medical setting, making it difficult for affected health care providers to continue to pay their medical staffs. Because it meets federal requirements, the new Pfizer mobile health unit will help solve these problems.

“Like all of Louisiana’s health care providers, LSU has made a commitment to providing necessary care to everyone affected by Katrina,” said LSU System President Dr. William Jenkins. “The mobile screening unit will ensure that the government and insurers reimburse us for our efforts so that we have the resources we need to purchase supplies, pay our doctors and nurses, and, most importantly, continue to provide care.”

“Helping Louisiana rebuild is going to take the combined resources of a great many public and private organizations,” said Ardoin. “Pfizer has a long history of supporting Louisianans, whether through our patient assistance programs like Sharing the Care or other philanthropic programs. Over the next several months, we will continue to work with our partners to make sure Louisianans have what they need to recover from Katrina and protect their health.”

Charity Hospital, part of the LSU Health Care Services Division, was founded more than 200 years ago and is one of the oldest hospitals in the United States. As a purely publicly-funded health care facility, it treats all patients without regard to insurance coverage or financial resources. Before the storm, the LSU Health Care Services Division hospital and clinic system was the largest provider of health care in Louisiana, with more than 1.2 million patient visits annually to 350 outpatient clinics, and almost 46,000 admissions to eight acute care public hospitals. With an annual budget in excess of \$900 million, the system operates 1,100 beds, with a total staff of 8,000+ employees. Since Katrina hit, the number of employees has been decreased by 3,500.

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