

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Media Contacts: Rachel Skei Donihoo

214-648-3404

rachel.donihoo@utsouthwestern.edu

Kyra Barnett

214-456-8384

kyra.barnett@childrens.com

Carl and Jimmy Westcott donate \$1 million to support pediatric neurology programs at UT Southwestern, Children's

DALLAS – Nov. 23, 2005 – Dallas entrepreneur Carl Westcott and his wife, Jimmy, have given \$1 million to support pediatric neurology programs at UT Southwestern Medical Center and Children's Medical Center Dallas.

The gift from the Westcott Foundation was divided equally between Southwestern Medical Foundation and Children's Medical Center Foundation. It establishes the Jimmy Elizabeth Westcott Distinguished Chair in Pediatric Neurology. Dr. Susan Iannaccone, professor of neurology and pediatrics at UT Southwestern and director of pediatric neurology at Children's, has been named its first holder.

"Carl and I believe that UT Southwestern Medical Center is one of Texas' greatest assets, and that the pediatric care provided by Children's Medical Center is unsurpassed," said Mrs. Westcott. "Most of our charitable efforts have been focused on children – whether poor, abused, neglected or sick – and pediatric research is close to our hearts. We're proud to be able to support UT Southwestern and Children's in this way."

A leading civic and business leader, Carl Westcott began his career with the acquisition of a small Chevrolet dealership in Tallulah, La. By 1979 he owned and managed from his Dallas headquarters 17 franchised automobile dealerships throughout the country. In 1974 he established First Extended Service Corp., now regarded as the originator of extended service agreements for new automobiles.

Throughout his career Mr. Westcott established several other successful companies, including 1-800-FLOWERS; KETK-TV, the NBC affiliate in Tyler; and the Automotive Satellite Television Network – later named Westcott Communications – which specialized in interactive

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distance learning applications. The entrepreneur has continued to manage venture investments through his company Westcott LLC, including technology companies such as Internet America and Digital Witness.

Mr. Westcott's business acumen and community involvement have garnered him several awards including the prestigious Horatio Alger Award in 2003 from the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans and the Arthur M. Young Society's Entrepreneur of the Year award in 1988. He has served numerous Dallas organizations including the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Southern Methodist University's Cox School of Business. In 1997 Mr. Westcott's business associates and investors in his companies donated \$500,000 in his honor to establish the Carl H. Westcott Distinguished Chair in Medical Research at UT Southwestern.

Jimmy Westcott was the first chairwoman of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Dallas, and has led the boards of the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation National Awards Luncheon. She is a trustee of Southwestern Medical Foundation and an active member of the Crystal Charity Ball and the President's Advisory Council of the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts Foundation, among others.

Mrs. Westcott's volunteer efforts with organizations like the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, the Greenhill School, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and others have earned her numerous accolades. She has been the recipient of the Pi Beta Phi Unsung Angel Award, the United Way Above & Beyond Award, and the Children's Champion Award from Dallas for Children. In 2001 Texas Gov. Rick Perry appointed her to the Governor's Commission for Women, for which she chaired the domestic violence committee. In 2003 she received the Camp Fire USA "On Behalf of Youth" community leader award. Mrs. Westcott was recently appointed to serve on the state Crime Victim's Institute and Service Advisory Councils.

The couple has been major contributors to a variety of local organizations through the Westcott Foundation, which they formed in 1990. They were major supporters of the construction of Zale Lipshy University Hospital (now UT Southwestern University Hospital – Zale Lipshy). In 1993 the Westcotts contributed funds to establish the Dr. Eugene B. Tragus Chair in Molecular

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Cardiology at UT Southwestern. They also served as honorary co-chairs of the Dallas Heart Ball in 1996, which successfully raised more than \$500,000 to establish the Dallas Heart Ball Chair in Cardiac Research at the medical center. The couple annually hosts the Westcott Pro-Am golf tournament for the benefit of the Northern Texas PGA Junior Golf Foundation, which annually reaches more than 23,000 disadvantaged boys and girls in the greater Dallas area.

They have two sons, Chart and Court. Chart is a junior at Vanderbilt University, and Court, a graduate of Vanderbilt University and Southern Methodist University, is the vice president of corporate development for Digital Witness, LLC.

“Carl and Jimmy are phenomenal people who are among Dallas’ most inspirational business and philanthropic leaders,” said Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern. “We are particularly honored that they have chosen to support an area of such great importance to them, and to the children of Texas, and we are enormously grateful for their continued generosity.”

“This gift from the Westcotts continues their tradition of selfless philanthropy and dedication to the children of this community,” said Christopher J. Durovich, president and chief executive officer of Children’s Medical Center. “With their help, the pediatric neurology program at Children’s will continue to expand the boundaries of pediatric healthcare, driving the pursuit, development and application of new knowledge for years to come.”

Dr. Iannaccone, who also serves as director of Neuromuscular Disease and Neurorehabilitation at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas, received her medical degree from the State University of New York in 1969. She joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1990 as an associate professor of neurology, after serving on the faculties of the University of Cincinnati, Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans, and the University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry in New York.

She serves on the editorial boards of numerous publications, including *Neuromuscular Disorders*, *Journal of Neurologic Rehabilitation* and *Pediatric Neurology*. She is an associate editor of *Archives of Neurology*. In 2000 the University of Rochester Department of Neurology

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presented her with the Neurology Alumni Award.

“This is a spectacularly exciting time in the neurosciences, particularly with respect to our understanding of devastating neurological and neuromuscular diseases in children,” said Dr. Iannaccone. “We have unprecedented understanding at the molecular level of these disorders, which has led directly to the development of therapeutic approaches never dreamed of before now. I am extremely grateful for the Westcotts’ generosity and foresight, which will allow our team to devote time to the critical translational research required to make these cures a reality.”

W. Plack Carr, president and CEO of Southwestern Medical Foundation, said, “We at the foundation count our blessings for the Westcotts’ continued involvement, which began in 1989 and has continued faithfully through the years.”

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The pediatric programs at UT Southwestern offer North Texas children the best of research, science, medicine and education. Nearly 100 full-time UT Southwestern pediatric physicians provide care and conduct research that is instrumental in developing treatments, therapies and a greater understanding of pediatric disease at Children’s Medical Center Dallas, UT Southwestern University Hospitals, Parkland Memorial Hospital and Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. In clinics, in hospital rooms and in surgery suites, UT Southwestern physicians offer gentle, appropriately aggressive care. Meanwhile, in UT Southwestern laboratories, the search is on for better ways to prevent pediatric illnesses and disorders and to find better treatments and cures.

Children’s Medical Center Dallas is one of the largest pediatric providers in the nation and is ranked one of the top 25 pediatric hospitals in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*. As the primary pediatric teaching facility for the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Children’s is the only academic hospital in North Texas dedicated exclusively to the comprehensive care of children from birth to age 18. Private and not-for-profit, Children’s is licensed for 406 beds, has more than 50 pediatric sub-specialty ambulatory programs and is the only pediatric hospital in the Southwest with a designated Level I trauma center. The 72-bed Children’s Medical Center Legacy is scheduled for completion in 2008 to better serve children in Collin County and the growing region. More information about Children’s is available at www.childrens.com. News media may subscribe to receive pediatric health news via the Web site’s Media section.