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**Community supporters Ruben and Alina Esquivel
establish student scholarship at UT Southwestern**

DALLAS – Jan. 30, 2009 – Inspired by their years of service to the Dallas medical community, civic leader Ruben Esquivel and his wife, Alina, have established a student scholarship at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

The couple has pledged funds to create the Ruben and Alina Esquivel Scholarship at UT Southwestern, where Mr. Esquivel has served as vice president for community and corporate relations since 1995. Mr. Esquivel's service at both UT Southwestern and at Parkland Health and Hospital System convinced him and his wife of the great importance of the two organizations' partnership, which this scholarship honors.

"Our motivation to give stems both from our gratitude to UT Southwestern and our belief that education is the key to solving so many problems that our society struggles with – from poverty to crime to disease," he said. "We hope that this scholarship will help give a student in need an opportunity to pursue his or her dreams for a career in health care by easing the financial burden."

The annual scholarship will be awarded on the basis of financial need to a first-year student at UT Southwestern Medical School or the UT Southwestern School of Health Professions who also is an alumnus of Parkland's Collegiate Fellows Program. The Parkland program is a nine-week summer work program designed to give undergraduate students hands-on training to encourage and enhance their interest in a career in health care or health care administration.

Mr. Esquivel, a native of Cuba, began his career at age 18 as an assembler with AVO International Inc. While working full time, he earned a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology and completed graduate courses in business administration at Rutgers University and UT Arlington. He was named president and chief executive officer of AVO in 1985 and vice chairman in 1994.

He is director and past chairman of the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corp. and currently is chairman of the State Fair of Texas. He serves on the boards of the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts Foundation, Dallas County Community College District Foundation, YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas and the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council Education and Research Foundation, among others.

He was a member of the Board of Managers of the Dallas County Hospital District from 1985 to

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1991 and was chairman from 1989 to 1991.

Mrs. Esquivel, also a native of Cuba, received a Bachelor of Arts from Douglass College at Rutgers University with a major in Spanish and a minor in education. In 1998 she earned a Master of Education in counseling from the University of North Texas.

A former junior high school teacher, she now is a licensed professional counselor in private practice. Mrs. Esquivel is a member of the Golden Cross Board of Methodist Hospitals of Dallas and has been a member of the executive board of Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University.

“The Esquivels have selflessly dedicated themselves to their community through a lifetime of public service,” said Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky, president of UT Southwestern. “They have made it their life’s work to help make life better for others, and we’re enormously grateful for their loyalty to the medical center. This scholarship will have enormous meaning to the students touched by Ruben and Alina’s generosity while further cementing the deep bonds between UT Southwestern and Parkland.”

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