

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Media Contact: Rachel Donihoo
214-648-3404
rachel.donihoo@email.swmed.edu

THE ASSOCIATES ESTABLISHES PEDIATRIC CHAIR WITH \$250,000 GIFT

DALLAS – September 29, 1999 – Critically ill children will soon benefit from cutting-edge research and treatment thanks to a \$250,000 gift to UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas from Associates First Capital Corporation (NYSE: AFS), a leading diversified financial services company based in Irving.

The donation will be matched with funds from UT Southwestern to create The Associates First Capital Corporation Chair in Pediatric Critical Care, an appointment to be filled by Brett Giroir, M.D., as associate professor of pediatrics and chief of the pediatric critical care division at UT Southwestern.

“Our contribution to UT Southwestern is just another way for us to give back to our community,” said Keith W. Hughes, chairman and chief executive officer of Associates First Capital Corporation. “We are honored to provide UT Southwestern with the opportunity to advance even further their research of pediatric illnesses – enabling the treatment of critically-ill children not only in our community, but throughout the world as well.”

The new chair will facilitate further investigation into severe childhood disease and trauma, and will help support the work of physicians who practice in the critical-care unit at Children’s Medical Center of Dallas.

“The quality of pediatric critical care in America can make a huge difference in the lives

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of our children, but until recently the specialty has received little attention,” said Giroir, medical director of critical-care services at Children’s Medical Center. “The Associates' generosity will provide a wonderful vehicle for furthering our research and will allow us academic freedom to pursue new and innovative ways to improve pediatric critical care.”

As medical director of critical-care services at Children’s, Giroir oversees the care of about 2,000 children a year who are so sick they must be admitted to the intensive care unit. Most recently, Giroir designed an international clinical trial to test new treatments for meningococemia, an infection triggered by a common bacterium that can kill or lead to amputation of affected limbs.

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern, agreed. “There is no gift that is more heartfelt than one given to improve the lives of children. The Associates' contribution is particularly generous because it is being directed toward research of such importance,” he said. “We’re extremely grateful to Keith Hughes and his company for such a tremendous gift and are excited about the possibilities it will provide.”

The Associates employs more than 7,000 people in Texas. A leading corporate philanthropist, the company was the largest contributor to Dallas’ United Way campaign in 1998.

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