

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spectrum Health's Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Opens

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., March 23, 2011 – Spectrum Health's Helen DeVos Children's Hospital recently opened to patients. The new LEED-registered hospital fills an underserved need in the region as it is the only stand alone hospital in West Michigan devoted exclusively to pediatric care. Its design is rooted in decades of research and study in creating optimal healing environments geared specifically for young children.

The \$286 million hospital is a 14 floor stand-alone building featuring an emergency department, radiology, inpatient/outpatient surgery, neonatal intensive care, pediatric critical care, private patient rooms, specialized clinic offices and complimentary support areas. The first three floors contain many of the procedural spaces and are built directly into the hillside on Michigan Street in order to maximize space on each floor. An 11-floor radius patient tower sits atop this podium base to capture daylight and incredible views of the surrounding downtown Grand Rapids area and "Medical Mile".

The patient tower is the first hospital tower in the world skinned with 100 percent vision glass. It features 140,000 square feet of arctic blue glass with a custom frit pattern that minimizes solar heat gain and required energy usage. As a result, the views from patient rooms and common areas are beautifully unobstructed. The interior is bathed in natural light and the façade is bright and uniform.

More than 1,500 pieces of artwork created or inspired by children, including a large ceramic tile mural, fill the interior space, while the exterior plaza doubles as a vegetated roof system atop the podium base to reduce urban heat island affects and serve as an interactive park playground with trees and landscaping. Areas for play and entertainment throughout the building also add to the child-friendly environment.

Spectrum Health engaged URS Corporation and Wolverine Building Group to purposely design and build the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital to create a children's hospital that would be intriguing to young people without being childish. It was to also incorporate the latest technology to provide the best health care possible and attract the most talented doctors and specialists. The result is a peaceful environment that provides healing and hope for children and families in need.

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