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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Toni Moore, President @ 918-694-8888 or
tmoore@tulahospitalityhouse.org

Hospitality House of Tulsa Serving More Families in Waiting This Holiday Season

*The Hospitality House of Tulsa provides a 'home away from home'
for families caring for hospitalized loved ones.*

Tulsa, Oklahoma (Wednesday December 3, 2008) – The Hospitality House of Tulsa, a 501(c)(3) charity, provides lodging and support services to family members of hospitalized out-of-town patients. In order to help more families facing a medical crisis away from home, Hospitality House of Tulsa announced its volunteers will begin delivering ‘waiting room survival kits’ to families in the Tulsa area hospital waiting rooms through their “Night of Hospitality” beginning Thursday, December 4, 2008. The kits contain bottled water, blankets, neck roll pillows, snacks, soups, etc. The re-usable bags containing the kits were sponsored by First Bank of Owasso.

According to a study performed in 2005 by The Hospitality House of Tulsa there are over 25,000 patients a year that travel from distances of up to 800 miles to Tulsa for inpatient medical care. The majority of these patients are accompanied by family members and caregivers who do not have enough financial resources to pay for out of pocket expenses such as hotel rooms and meals associated with a lengthy medical stay.

When accommodations like The Hospitality House are not available, families with limited resources often resort to sleeping in waiting rooms or their vehicles, and eating out of vending machines or eating just one meal a day. These conditions, coupled with the stress of their loved one’s hospitalization, often lead to sleep deprivation, isolation, depression, and financial crisis, all of which compromise a family’s ability to support and care for their loved one.

“Dealing with a medical crisis away from home is extremely stressful and financially devastating. Given the economic crisis our country is currently facing, coupled with the holiday season, it’s even worse,” said Toni Moore, President of The Hospitality House of Tulsa.

The patient benefits tremendously from the additional care and support the family can provide by being near the patient. And in return, the family benefits from their personal participation in the healing process.

Earlier this week, Hospitality House of Tulsa also began their “Room in the Inn, Room in Our Hearts” campaign. With seven fully furnished and decorated guest suites available, The Hospitality House can provide 2,550 nights of lodging a year. They have decorated the outside of the House with 2,550 Christmas lights representing one night of lodging for a family. The community is invited to help these families by making a \$10 contribution which illuminates one light on the house.

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Since opening their doors in 2006, The Hospitality House of Tulsa has already served over 450 families. These families had traveled from all parts of Oklahoma and 23 other states in the U.S.

For more information about The Hospitality House of Tulsa, please call 918-694-8888 or visit their website at www.tulsa hospitalityhouse.org

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The Hospitality House of Tulsa is inviting the media to join the volunteers for coverage of “A Night of Hospitality”. Please meet Toni Moore in front of The Hospitality House of Tulsa, 1135 S Victor Ave, Tulsa, Oklahoma at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 4th. Since we will be visiting many Tulsa hospitals, please be aware of the security regulations each hospital has in place. If you as a media outlet would like to cover this story, please respond back to Toni Moore, Hospitality House of Tulsa at 918-694-8888.

Participating Hospitals on Thursday evening, December 4th include: Hillcrest Medical Center, Peggy Helmerich Women’s Center, Kaiser Rehab, Select Specialty Hospital, OSU Medical Center, St. John Medical Center, Continuous Care Center, Saint Francis Hospital, Saint Francis Children’s Hospital, Saint Francis South Hospital, Southcrest Hospital, Tulsa Spine and Specialty Hospital, Oklahoma NeuroSpecialty Center.

Participating Hospitals on Friday evening, December 5th include: Bailey Medical Center, Owasso, Oklahoma and St. John Hospital Owasso Hospital

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The Hospitality House of Tulsa

FACT SHEET

- Over 25,000 patients, representing families, travel to Tulsa each year for inpatient medical stays*. Of those 25,000 . . .
 - Appx 20,000 come from 50 – 100 miles away
 - Appx 3,000 come from 101- 150 miles away
 - Appx 500 come from 151 – 200 miles away
 - Appx 1,500 come from over 200 miles away (some stats showed up to 800 miles)

*Data collected from Patient Feasibility Study in which the major Tulsa hospitals participated in, as well as data from The 2003 Patient Origin Report derived from the 2003 Oklahoma Annual Cooperative Survey, published by The Oklahoma Hospital Association.

- Nearly 50% of patients seen in Tulsa hospitals are Medicare, Medicaid, and Uninsured patients, which represent families on a very limited income, who can not afford out of pocket expenses associated with a lengthy medical stay.

- Since 2006, Hospitality House of Tulsa supporters and volunteers have provided lodging, meals, prayer support for over 450 families.
- Hospitality House of Tulsa runs 100% occupancy every night of the year and maintains a waiting list averaging 15 families each day.
- For more information on family financial crises related to medical illness and injury go to:
<http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/full/hlthaff.w5.63/DC1> and
<http://www.aecf.org/upload/publicationfiles/fes3622h1313.pdf>

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