



For Immediate Release

Kim Brown

817-266-3728

kim.brown3@cookchildrens.org

Cook Children's to Expand in West Fort Worth with New Urgent Care and Orthopedic Location

First phase of major facility development near Walsh community expected to open in Fall 2019

FORT WORTH (November 20, 2018) – Construction on a new pediatric care facility from Cook Children's Health Care System is underway in far west Fort Worth. As one of the most recognized freestanding children's health care systems in the southwest, Cook Children's newest location will feature world-class urgent care, primary care and orthopedic services. The center will be located on an eight-acre site south of Interstate 30, across from the growing Walsh neighborhood, and will be accessible to the public from Walsh Ranch Parkway south of I-30 and the I-30 access road. Families in Tarrant County, Parker County and underserved areas reaching into West Texas will benefit from this expansion.

Cook Children's, currently celebrating its 100th year, made a decision to build a new location in west Fort Worth as an extension of its 'Promise' to improve the health of every child in the region. With as many as 400 patients a day being seen in Cook Children's urgent care locations, the health care system commissioned an independent research study to determine how the high volumes could be eased. The study determined adding a new location in west Fort Worth would best serve the families of North Texas and West Texas by increasing pediatric care services in this high growth area.

"Our goal is for North Texas to be one of the healthiest regions in the country for kids to grow up," said Rick Merrill, president and CEO of Cook Children's. "We strive to make quality pediatric care convenient to families in their communities and are extremely excited to grow our footprint in west Fort Worth and Parker County. The new Cook Children's facility going in near the Walsh development will be able to flex and expand as that region of Fort Worth continues to grow."

Phase I of the project includes a 40,000-square-foot building that will house physicians providing primary care and urgent care services on the center's first floor, and a second floor that will serve patients of Cook Children's Orthopedic Services.

"With more than one million patient encounters a year, Cook Children's has the honor of providing life-saving pediatric care to children from all over the United States and the world," said Merrill. "While we are proud of this far-reaching reputation, our commitment to those who live in Denton, Hood, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant and Wise counties remains priority."

In step with Cook Children's dedication to innovation, special attention is being given to the facility's technology infrastructure. Like many of Cook Children's clinics across Texas, plans are in place to offer telemedicine services so patients can be seen by their physician via a private video conferencing system. This prevents families from taking unnecessary time away from work and school to travel to appointments.

Preservation of the surrounding natural landscape – the site is located along the 7,200-acre rolling prairies of the Walsh Ranch property – is also a priority as Cook Children’s plans for future development in west Fort Worth.

Cook Children’s plans to integrate adaptive play areas like the Imagination Playground on the grounds at the new center and the building will borrow architectural styles from the nearby neighborhoods. HKS is the lead architecture and design group and the Linbeck Fort Worth office serves as general contractor for the project. Cook Children’s intends to open the west Fort Worth location in fall 2019.

Being named one of the Top 100 Places to Work by The Dallas Morning News nine years in a row, Cook Children’s new facility will offer an exciting opportunity for dozens of professionals. In the initial phase, about 50 employees will be based at the west Fort Worth location.

For more information on Cook Children’s, visit cookchildrens.org.

About Cook Children’s

Cook Children’s Health Care System embraces an inspiring Promise – to improve the health of every child in our region through the prevention and treatment of illness, disease and injury. Based in Fort Worth, Texas, we’re proud of our long and rich tradition of serving our community.

Our not-for-profit organization is comprised of nine companies, including our Medical Center, Physician Network, Home Health company, Northeast Hospital, Pediatric Surgery Center, Health Plan, Health Services Inc., Child Study Center and Health Foundation. With more than 60 primary, specialty and urgent care locations throughout Texas, families can access our top-ranked specialty programs and network of services to meet the unique needs of their child. For more information, visit cookchildrens.org.

About Walsh

Walsh is the next great neighborhood of Fort Worth. Located west of downtown Fort Worth where Interstate 20 and I-30 merge and spanning 7,200 acres, Walsh is the largest development underway in the U.S. within 12 minutes of a major city center. At completion, Walsh will feature more than 15,000 homes and a community of 50,000 residents. Homes at Walsh are zoned for Aledo Independent School District. For more information, visit walshtx.com.

Contacts

Kim Brown
Cook Children’s, public relations
817-266-3728
Kim.Brown3@cookchildrens.org

Greg Miller
Walsh, public relations
214-891-7668

Greg_miller@richards.com

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Our not-for-profit organization encompasses nine companies – a medical center, two surgery centers, a physician network, home health services and a health plan. It also includes Child Study Center at Cook Children's, Cook Children's Health Services Inc., and Cook Children's Health Foundation. With more than 60 primary, specialty and urgent care locations throughout Texas, families can access our top-ranked specialty programs and network of services to meet their unique needs.

We've worked to improve the health of children from across our primary service area of Denton, Hood, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant and Wise counties for more than 100 years. Based on the exceptional care we provide, patients travel to Cook Children's from around the country and the globe to receive life-saving pediatric care built on leading technology, extraordinary collaboration and the art of caring.

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