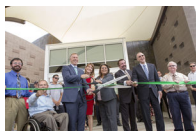


Mesa gets brand new children's hospital

http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/local/article_8b3dfcc6-2030-11e5-b639-fb620454c994.html



[David Jolkovski/Tribune]

Hacienda Children's Hospital

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By Eric Smith, Tribune

Mesa Mayor John Giles cuts the ribbon with Hacienda HealthCare President and CEO William J. Timmons, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Councilwoman Deanna M. Scabby, Hacienda HealthCare Executive Vice President Tom Pomeroy and US Rep. Matt Salmon during the Grand Opening Celebration for Hacienda Children's Hospital in Mesa on Wednesday, July 1, 2015.

Parents of sick children will no longer have to make extended drives to Phoenix or other distant parts of the Valley to make sure their children receive premium health care.

Hacienda HealthCare hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its newest location, Hacienda Children's Hospital, Wednesday morning at 610 W. Jerome Ave. in Mesa's Fiesta District.

The new 20,900-square-foot facility, which will begin operations July 15, will hold 24 beds focusing in highly-acute, acute and sub-acute care for infants, children and teens.

The emphasis of Hacienda Children's Hospital is taking care of children who no longer need to be in a larger hospital, like Phoenix Children's, for example, but are not ready to return home.

"We've always been more like home than one of the big hospitals," said Jennefer Frost, director of nursing at Hacienda Children's. "Our staff is very stable. We don't use registries, we don't have travelers or seasonal workers, so they get to know us and then they're more comfortable here."

The rooms at Hacienda Children's, Frost said, are larger than the ones at traditional hospitals and feature items such as pull-out couches for sleeping and larger bathrooms. It's all about making the stay more comfortable for both the families and the children.

The smaller staff allows Frost the ability to personally connect with patients and aid in care, whereas at a larger hospital seeing the director of nursing would be rare.

“Whether you want it or not, myself or my assistant director of nursing will probably come see the baby — be involved in the plan of care — we help the whole family and we’re all involved,” Frost said. “Whereas, at the larger hospitals, that director of nursing is probably managing hundreds of nurses and you would only see her if there was a problem.”

Mesa Vice Mayor Dennis Kavanaugh said Hacienda Children’s will also compliment Cardon Children’s Hospital at Banner Desert.

“What the new hospital will do is provide a children’s rehabilitation hospital here in the East Valley,” he said. “Previously, when kids weren’t ready to go home, similar facilities like this were quite a ways over in Phoenix, which was quite a hardship for parents to go back and forth from the East Valley ... to go into Phoenix to visit their kids.”

The city also was highly invested in the building of Hacienda Children’s, chipping in \$700,000 in grant money to the facility.

“That’s one of the single largest grants the city has made under that federal program, which we’ve had for many years,” Kavanaugh said.

“The other thing we like, certainly as a city, is that it’s great private investment in the Fiesta District that is health care, which are generally good jobs,” Kavanaugh added. “That’s the kind of businesses the city has been recruiting for several years now ... we think it’s a great compliment to Cardon Children’s Hospital and Banner Desert and I think you’ll see more health care-related businesses wanting to move into the Fiesta District to be close to both hospitals.”

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