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**THE JOHNSON & JOHNSON CAMPAIGN FOR NURSING'S FUTURE HELPS
EASE HOUSTON/GALVESTON NURSING SHORTAGE**
*Promise of Nursing Gala Raises \$300,000 for Nursing School Students, Faculty and
Programs*

HOUSTON (February 2, 2007) – To help ease the growing shortage of nurses, a regional coalition of hospitals, nursing schools, and nursing organizations joined Johnson & Johnson for the *Promise of Nursing for Houston/Galveston* gala. Hundreds of area nurses and health care professionals from regional hospitals and institutions attended last night's event at the Hilton Americas to celebrate the nursing profession while raising funds to relieve the shortage.

“The shortage of nurses we are experiencing locally continues to impact Houston hospitals,” said Dan Wolterman, CEO of the Memorial Hermann Health System in Houston. “In Houston, at least, an additional 17 percent of hospital nurses are needed to help ensure effective and efficient patient care, and ultimately, improved patient outcomes. Working together, we can help stave off this mounting national health care dilemma.”

The collaborative efforts of the local health care organizations along with The Johnson & Johnson *Campaign for Nursing's Future*, raised \$300,000 at last night's event, with 100 percent of the proceeds going toward regional nursing school grants,

faculty fellowships and student scholarships. Nursing student scholarships and faculty fellowships are granted to qualifying applicants for the duration of their program.

“While great strides have been taken to ease the nursing shortage, there is still much more that needs to be done,” said Curt M. Selquist, company group chairman, Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems Inc. “The Houston area is a region that is impacted by the nursing shortage and collective efforts such as those exhibited by this event can enhance the image of the nursing profession, recruit and retain nurses, and attract nurse educators to help mitigate the shortage.”

According to a November 2006 report from the Texas Department of State Health Services Center for Nursing Workforce Studies, entitled "*The Supply and Demand for Registered Nurses and Nurse Graduates in Texas*", by the year 2010, Texas is expected to suffer a shortfall of 27,000 registered nurses, increasing to 71,000 by 2020.

“Houston continues to feel the pinch of the nursing shortage, and as the demand for health care continues to rise, the growing shortage will only intensify,” said Barbara Summers, chief nursing officer, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. “Nurses are central to patient care, and events like *The Promise of Nursing for Houston/Galveston* demonstrate how much we can accomplish together to continue to ensure a skilled and adequate nursing workforce in the future.”

The Texas nursing shortage mirrors a national shortfall, and in its effort to reduce the gap in local communities across the country, Johnson & Johnson has hosted similar fund-raising galas over the past four years, generating more than \$9 million. Additional galas for 2007 include Boston, March 14; Gulfport, Miss., April 24; Portland, Ore., June 7; and Philadelphia, Fall 2007.

For additional information on *The Promise of Nursing for Houston/Galveston* or other upcoming galas, please email NursingFundraisingEvent@hcsus.jnj.com.

The organizations that comprise *The Promise of Nursing for Houston/Galveston* Steering Committee are: Galveston College, Good Samaritan Foundation, Greater Houston Partnership, Harris County Hospital District, Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, National Association of Hispanic Nurses – Houston Chapter, North Harris Montgomery Community College District, Nurse Week/Nursing Spectrum, OakBend Medical Center, San Jacinto College District, St. Joseph Medical Center, St. Luke’s Episcopal Health System, Texas Children’s Hospital, Texas Orthopedic Hospital, Texas Woman’s University College of Nursing, The Methodist Hospital System, The University of Texas Health Science Center – Houston School of Nursing, The WorkSource, University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, UTMB School of Nursing.

ABOUT THE PROMISE OF NURSING

The Promise of Nursing for Houston/Galveston gala is part of a public-awareness campaign -- The Johnson & Johnson *Campaign for Nursing's Future* -- launched by Johnson & Johnson in February 2002. The multi-year, \$30 million campaign is designed

to enhance the image of the nursing profession, recruit new nurses and nurse faculty, as well as help retain nurses currently in the profession. Working in cooperation with various professional nursing organizations, schools, hospitals and other health care groups and providers, the Campaign focuses on promoting opportunities within nursing as well as increasing awareness of the value of the nursing profession to our overall society and health care community.

In January 2006, the *Campaign for Nursing's Future* accepted the Ron Brown Award for Corporate Leadership on behalf of Johnson & Johnson. The Ron Brown Award for Corporate Leadership is the only presidential award to honor companies for the exemplary quality of their relationships with employees and communities. Johnson & Johnson was one of three companies in 2006 to receive this prestigious award established in honor of the late U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown.

ABOUT JOHNSON & JOHNSON

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