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MEL GIBSON DONATES \$10 MILLION TO CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER AND MATTEL CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL AT UCLA

Mel Gibson has donated a total of \$10 million, split evenly between Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Mattel Children’s Hospital at UCLA. The gifts will provide the respective hospitals with reimbursement for medical care to children from foreign countries, who are unable to afford medical care in their own countries, either because such medical care is unavailable there, or because they lack the financial resources to secure treatment. To qualify for treatment paid for by this donation, these children must have serious medical conditions for which they are unable to be treated in their own countries. The children whose care will be paid for by this donation will be located and recommended by *Healing the Children*, under the direction of founder Cris Embleton.

“For the past several years, the Gibson family has quietly supported *Healing the Children* efforts to help sick and injured children around the world,” commented Embleton. Embleton added, “Not only have they given financial support, they have also given their time and hearts and as a result have seen first hand how people working together can give a child the future they deserve. Their awesome gift, coupled with the willing hands and hearts of others, will bring healing to many hurting children and joy to the heart of their parents. We are so profoundly grateful for the gift. We believe in miracles and we believe that this is indeed one!”

Healing the Children seeks to serve kids with serious, yet correctable, medical problems without regard to race, religion, creed or national origin. “Our goal is simply to unite medical care with sick and injured children, stated Embleton. “We have seen for ourselves how willing hands and hearts can make this world a better place for all children,” she added.

“Mr. Gibson’s compassion and generosity will enable children from medically underserved countries to benefit from care they might not otherwise receive, and we are honored to help him achieve this goal,” said Dr. Gregory Fontana, vice chair of Surgery, Pediatric Surgical Services at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. “With our commitment to improve the quality of health and lives of children through efforts in ongoing research and improved technology, Cedars-Sinai is pleased to touch the lives of children and give them the gift of hope and healing.”

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center is one of the largest non-profit academic medical centers in the Western United States. For the past 17 years, Cedars-Sinai has been voted the "Most Preferred Hospital for All Health Needs" in an independent survey of Los Angeles residents. Cedars-Sinai is internationally renowned for its diagnostic and treatment capabilities and its broad spectrum of programs and services, as well as breakthrough in biomedical research and superlative medical education. Named one of the 100 "Most Wired" hospitals in health care in 2001, the Medical Center ranks among the top 10 non-university hospitals in the nation for its research activities.

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