



Contact: **Jessica M. Salazar**
Phone: **(816) 346-1346**
E-mail: JMSalazar@cmh.edu
Web site: ChildrensMercy.org

For Immediate Release

Children's Mercy Announces Pediatric Heart Failure and Transplantation Program
*Program made possible through a \$1 Million donation from Children's Mercy
President and CEO and his family*

Kansas City, Mo, - February 24, 2011 – Along with his family, Randall L. O'Donnell, PhD, President and CEO of Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, today announced a \$1 million donation to create the **Melva and Randall O'Donnell Family Chair in Pediatric Cardiology**. The establishment of this Chair shows the commitment and confidence of the O'Donnell family to the current and future success of the pediatric cardiology and cardiac surgery programs at Children's Mercy. This endowed Chair will assist in the recruitment of an outstanding cardiology leader who will complete the development of this important program for our patients and the community.

Dr. O'Donnell, who has lead Children's Mercy for more than 18 years, said, "I was privileged to find great talent when I arrived here, and have been even more privileged to receive the support over the past two decades of our generous philanthropic community to recruit additional talent and build our capacity. The opportunity now to pursue certification of a heart transplantation program raises the bar once again, and is a testimony to the talent and expertise Children's Mercy is now able to offer."

The [pediatric cardiac surgery](#) program at Children's Mercy already provides a full spectrum of care for neonatal, pediatric and adolescent cardiac patients, and already cares for many of the region's pediatric heart failure and transplant patients before and after surgery. With the addition of a heart transplant program, Children's Mercy will now provide a full spectrum of pediatric transplant services including heart, kidney, liver and small bowel. Once launched, Children's Mercy will be the only hospital in the region outside of St. Louis, to perform pediatric heart transplants.

About Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics

Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, located in Kansas City, Mo., is one of the nation's top pediatric medical centers. The 314-bed hospital provides care for children from birth through the age of 18, and has been recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center with Magnet designation for excellence in nursing services, and ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of "America's Best Children's Hospitals." Its faculty of 600 pediatricians and researchers across more than [40 subspecialties](#) are actively involved in clinical care, pediatric research, and educating the next generation of pediatric subspecialists. For more information about Children's Mercy and its research, visit childrensmercy.org. For breaking news and videos, follow us on [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [Facebook](#).

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