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## **Hospitality House of Tulsa Lights up the Lives of Families in Need**

**Local Non-profit kicks off third-annual fundraising campaign by delivering waiting room survival kits**

TULSA, OKLA., Nov. 25, 2009- The Hospitality House of Tulsa gives families in need *A Night of Hospitality* by delivering 350 “waiting room survival kits” to families in 16 local hospital waiting rooms Thursday, Dec. 3. This event kicks off their third-annual *Room in the Inn, Room in our Hearts* fundraising campaign, with Christmas music, a visit from Santa and the lighting of 5,110 musically-synchronized Christmas lights covering the facility at 1135 S. Victor Ave, at 5:30 p.m.

“Since opening our doors in 2006, The Hospitality House of Tulsa has served more than 600 families from across Oklahoma and 23 other states that have traveled to Tulsa to be near a loved one who is being cared for in one of our local hospitals. Our annual *Room in the Inn, Room in our Hearts* campaign provides us with funds to continue serving families, while *A Night of Hospitality* allows us to reach out and help the families we are currently unable to serve,” says Toni Moore, President and CEO of The Hospitality House of Tulsa, “Dec. 3 will not only be a night of giving but also a night to encourage our community to give and to help us meet our overwhelming need.”

Annually, more than 25,000 patients travel to Tulsa for inpatient medical care. The majority of these patients are accompanied by family members and caregivers who are without financial resources for expenses such as lodging and food, especially during a lengthy medical stay. The Hospitality House of Tulsa serves as a “home away from home” for these families, who would otherwise resort to sleeping in waiting rooms or vehicles and eating out of vending machines. Instead of confining the hospitality to the organization’s limited space, The Hospitality House of Tulsa volunteers come together on *A Night of Hospitality* to serve these families by assembling and hand-delivering “waiting room survival kits” to families in the hospitals, which include water, food, blankets, neck pillows, reading material and travel hygiene items.

The Hospitality House provides 5,110 nights of lodging per year to families in medical crisis. During the annual fundraiser, *Room in the Inn, Room in our Hearts*, Hospitality House of Tulsa covers the facility with 5,110 Christmas lights, representing the number of nights of lodging Hospitality House provides families in medical crisis in one year. The lights will be synchronized with Christmas music and will include family testimonies from previous Hospitality House of Tulsa guests.

The community is invited to participate by visiting the Hospitality House, beginning Dec. 3, to enjoy the Christmas light show and by making a \$10 contribution which illuminates one light on the House, representing one night of lodging for a family. Don’t miss the kick-off event December 3, where you can enjoy the light show, cookies and hot cocoa, music and a visit from Santa Clause. Sponsors for this event include Waters Family Charitable Foundation, Tulsa Adjustment Bureau, First Bank of Owasso, Hillcrest Medical Center, Louis Blosch Agency.

“Dealing with a medical crisis away from home is extremely stressful and financially devastating. Situations such as these often lead to sleep deprivation, depression and financial crisis, which can compromise a family’s ability to support and care for their loved one. No price can be put on the rest,

comfort and support these families receive through The Hospitality House of Tulsa,” says Hope Robertson, MSW, Social Worker at Hillcrest Medical Center.

For more information about these events or to get involved, call The Hospitality House of Tulsa (918) 794-0088 or visit [www.tulsaospitalityhouse.org](http://www.tulsaospitalityhouse.org)

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### **About The Hospitality House of Tulsa**

The Hospitality House of Tulsa is a 501(c)(3) charity that provides lodging and support services to families living 30 miles outside the Tulsa area caring for loved ones who are inpatients in all Tulsa area hospitals.

\*For more information, see fact sheet.