

Harlingen Medical Center Celebrates Six Years of Health & Wellness

Harlingen (October 9, 2008) – Harlingen Medical Center (HMC), one of the leading Rio Grande Valley hospitals in cardiovascular care, will celebrate its sixth anniversary October 9, 2008! The 112-bed hospital will mark the special event by hosting the “Harlingen Medical Center Celebrates Six Years of Health & Wellness Fair” at its main lobby, between hours of 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The fair will showcase free health screenings, wellness services, and health education seminars; food and refreshments.

Since opening its doors in October 2002, HMC has been committed to creating the best possible experience for its patients by nurturing a culture that is focused on patient care, making available advanced treatment options, and supporting a mission statement that calls for the promotion of “health and wellness to the people we serve.”

“We are very proud of the success our physicians, nurses, and staff have attained so far in creating a facility that has been, and continues to be, a leading healthcare institution in the Rio Grande Valley,” said Brenda Ivory, Interim Chief Executive Officer at Harlingen Medical Center. “Thanks to the tireless dedication of our team we continue to move in a direction that allows us to further develop our services and programs while meeting the healthcare needs of the communities we serve.”

Dedication has allowed HMC to emerge as a leader in the delivery of high quality care in areas such as cardiovascular care, orthopedics, obstetrics, gynecology, and emergency care.

Harlingen Medical Center has been nationally recognized for its excellence in the delivery of cardiac care. The highly skilled and experienced cardiologists’, of HMC, have been a driving force behind this success. More than 3,000 procedures, a year, are performed at HMC’s surgical suites, which include two operating suites dedicated to specializing in heart and vascular care and two cardiac catheterization and electrophysiology laboratories.

With more than 1,000 births, a year, at the Women’s Center – it is one of the premiere choices for families to welcome their new babies! The team of physicians, nurses, and staff at this specialty center work together to ensure a high level of sophisticated medical care in a setting that is aesthetically pleasing and conducive to family-centered obstetrics. The Women’s Center features two

state-of-the-art obstetrics and gynecological operating suites, six home-like labor and delivery rooms, a classroom for educational programs, and a team of caregivers that are highly skilled in women's healthcare.

The Emergency Department at Harlingen Medical Center is home to the "**15 Minute ER Pledge**." This is a promise that every patient that walks into the emergency room, at HMC, will be seen by a triage nurse within 15 minutes of their arrival. This rapid service has garnered this unit and its team high remarks from former patients, according to HMC's patient perception survey results. The Emergency Room features physicians and registered nurses trained in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), and they are supported with a state-of-the-art designed and equipped ER capable of handling all cardiac, pulmonary, and surgical needs.

With sleep apnea becoming a major health issue, Harlingen Medical Center also features a Sleep Center. It offers the most progressive diagnostic equipment and treatment options available. The state-of-the-art facility has private suites for patients and offers them the comforts of home, along with HMC's commitment to quality care and patient safety.

As part of its mission, to "be the provider of choice for the healthcare services that we offer and to promote health and wellness ...," HMC has been reaching out to the communities it serves in the form of health fairs, health education seminars, and various partnerships. HMC consistently collaborates with various local businesses, schools, and organizations to offer free health screenings; coordinates various health education presentations such as the popular HMC Doc Talk Lecture Series; and, offers some highly beneficial medical services such as the year-round \$75 Heart Saver Scan and the \$99 Mammogram special during the month of October, breast cancer awareness month.

"I am proud of the wide spectrum of high quality services and programs we offer at Harlingen Medical Center," said Ms. Ivory. "But, I am especially pleased with the team of physicians, nurses, and staff that have chosen to make HMC their professional home. The administration team and I are honored to have these intelligent and dedicated professionals as part of the HMC family."

Harlingen Medical Center is a proprietary, general acute care, Level IV Trauma hospital with 450 employees. It is located at 5501 South Expressway 77, Harlingen, Texas, 78550. To learn more about the Harlingen Medical Center Celebrates Health & Wellness Fair, or HMC, contact Letty Kretz in Marketing at (956) 365-1848, or Manny Chacon in Community Relations at (956) 365-1888.

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