

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ELIZABETH SETON PEDIATRIC CENTER AND JOHN A. COLEMAN SCHOOL
BROKE GROUND IN YONKERS ON SEPTEMBER 10TH**
NEW YORK'S ARCHBISHOP TIMOTHY DOLAN PRESIDED OVER THE CEREMONY



Back row from left – Dennis J. Kenny, Esq., Center Trustee; William P. Harrington, Esq., Center Trustee; Thomas Feuerstein, School Trustee; NY Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan; Stuart C. Kaplan, Center Trustee; Sr. Carol Anne Barnes, S.C., Chair of the Pediatric Center Board and School Trustee; Peter T. McKeever, Center and School Trustee; Carla Herman, Center Trustee; William E. Griffin, Esq., Campaign Committee Member. Front row from left – former Pediatric Center resident Stephanie Gabaud; Patricia A. Tursi, Pediatric Center CEO and Coleman School President; William F. Harrington, Esq., Campaign Committee Chair; Lisa Wickens, Center Trustee; Yonkers City Council Members Dee Barbato and Patricia McDow; and Yonkers Mayor Philip A. Amicone.

(Yonkers, NY) On Thursday, September 10th at 12 noon, the Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan, Archbishop of New York, presided at the groundbreaking ceremonies for a new, 137-bed, 165,000 square foot, 4-story Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center campus that will be developed on a 6.5 acre tract in South Westchester Executive Park, Yonkers, NY.

When completed in 2011, the new Pediatric Center will be the home of medical, nursing, rehabilitative, palliative care, educational and home care services for 137 children ranging in age from birth through age 21 with complex medical diagnosis and disabilities including: premature birth complications, cerebral palsy, congenital heart disease, chronic lung disease,

chromosome disorders, metabolic disorders, respiratory disorders, muscular and neurological diseases and immunodeficiency syndromes.

“You can’t describe the work that these folks are doing,” said William F. Harrington, Esq., Chairman of the Pediatric Center’s “Let Us Build a House” Capital Campaign for the Yonkers Campus. “There are very few hospitals that provide this level of care and we are delighted to have the Center here in Yonkers.”



NY Archbishop, Timothy Dolan, Yonkers Mayor, Phil Amicone, Sr. Dorothy Metz, President of the Sisters of Charity NY, and Pediatric Center CEO, Patricia Tursi, all gather to coach former resident Stephanie G. on “groundbreaking.”

The Pediatric Center was established by the Sisters of Charity of New York in 1987 as a program of the New York Foundling in response to an unmet need for post acute pediatric care. It is presently located in Manhattan, in 90,000 square feet of leased space in a building that has been sold and must be vacated by 2012. After a lengthy and extensive search for suitable space in Manhattan and the surrounding boroughs, the Center’s Board of Trustees and leadership chose the 6.5 acre Executive Park site and commissioned the design and development of a state-of-the-art, child-centered, LEED-certified “green” facility to house residential, home care and educational services.

“Our children and families have been at the heart of every decision made by the project team,” according to Sr. Carol Anne Barnes, Chair of the Board of Trustees, “and this new facility will surely set a new standard for pediatric long term care.”

Perkins Eastman, a nationally known architectural firm, has custom-designed a home-like pavilion that integrates the joys of childhood -- learning, play, and exploration -- with clinical care, traditional and complementary therapies and a special education school. The design is evidence-based and incorporates innovative approaches to light, color and sound. The building will include unique architectural features such as resident rooms that have been specially designed to reinforce dignity, privacy and a sense of ownership for each child. 14-classrooms with direct playground access and abundant outdoor spaces will complement the fully equipped rehabilitation therapy suites, aquatic therapy center, and other clinical services.

“The new Pediatric Center will be a very special home that provides an extraordinary level of care for each of our 137 medically-fragile children” stated Patricia A. Tursi, CEO “as well as for their families and those who care for the children every day.”

The September 10th groundbreaking ceremonies culminated years of planning and marked the beginning of the next phase of establishing a permanent home for the Pediatric Center and its affiliated John A. Coleman School. “We are very grateful to Mayor Philip Amicone and the City of Yonkers -- as well as to so many others who have supported our dream of establishing a permanent home here.” added Ms. Tursi. “We would not be here today without the support of so many friends.”



Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center CEO, Patricia Tursi, and former resident, Stephanie Gabaud.

Yonkers Mayor Phil Amicone said, “It is a great privilege to welcome Archbishop Timothy Dolan to our city for this highly anticipated event. We are extremely pleased to be the new home of the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center. Today’s groundbreaking ceremony marks an important milestone for our city as we work to expand crucial healthcare services for children here in Yonkers and beyond.”

New York State Department of Health approved a total project cost of \$125 million for the new facility. Andron Corporation of Goldens Bridge, NY is general contractor. Construction will begin in 2009 for occupancy in 2011.

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