



For Immediate Release
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CALVARY HOSPITAL LAUNCHES BACK-TO-SCHOOL DRIVE

“Learning is Key” Effort will Benefit Children in Hospital’s Bereavement Support Groups

BRONX, NEW YORK, June 2009 – Calvary Hospital today announced that they will be conducting a back to school drive – **“Learning is Key”** -- to benefit the 50 children, ages 6 to 18, who attend the Hospital’s bereavement support groups throughout the year. Calvary’s goal is to fill sturdy school bags with essential supplies for the academic year, and give them to all participants of the Hospital’s “Precious Moments” and teen bereavement support groups. A donation of \$25 will purchase one filled book bag.

To support “Learning is Key,” people can make their checks payable to “Calvary Fund Inc.” and send their contributions to the attention of: **Veronica Ruffin-Ellis, Calvary Hospital, 1740 Eastchester Road, Bronx, NY 10461.**

- In “memo” part of check, please write: Back to School Drive.
- The deadline to send contributions is Friday, July 17, 2009.
- All donors will receive a written confirmation of their gift.
- Donors may also support Calvary’s year-round children’s bereavement support groups.

“Learning is Key” is Calvary’s second major initiative for the children’s bereavement program. Last fall, the 6th floor team headed by Veronica Ruffin-Ellis celebrated the courage of dozens of children with a holiday party. Each child received a gift bag of winter essentials (hat, gloves, and scarf) and a gift card to Toys R Us or Old Navy.

The Hospital offers bereavement support groups for adults and children of all ages who have lost loved ones at Calvary, or who come from neighboring communities. Its 12 existing support groups (including one in Spanish) meet year-round. Most meet in the Bronx with two groups taking place in downtown Brooklyn.

Calvary has one of the metropolitan area’s few bereavement programs specifically for young children, and also one of the few for bereaved adolescents. “Precious Moments” serves children ages 6-11; the Teen Support Groups serve participants ages 12-17. To date, Calvary has helped more than 430 children through “Precious Moments” and its teen groups. (These numbers include all children and teens in groups and individual counseling.)

Calvary Hospital (www.calvaryhospital.org) is the nation’s only fully accredited acute care specialty hospital devoted exclusively to providing palliative care to adult advanced cancer patients. A 225-bed facility with locations in the Bronx and Brooklyn, Calvary is the model for the relief of cancer pain and symptoms for more than a century. More than 5,300 patients are cared for annually by Calvary’s inpatient, outpatient, home care, home hospice, nursing home hospice, and wound care services.