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Contact: Kathy Hayes  
Driscoll Children's Hospital  
(361) 694-4392

Rich Tuttle  
Flint Hills Resources  
(361) 242-8572

**DRISCOLL HOSPITAL RECEIVES \$75,000 FROM DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION;  
PLANS FOR FIESTA DE LOS NINOS 2002 ANNOUNCED**

**CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS** – The Driscoll Children's Hospital Development Foundation today awarded a \$75,000 grant to the hospital and announced plans for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Fiesta de los Ninos to be held on Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at the Bayfront Convention Center featuring up-and-coming country music star Chris Cagle.

Funds from the grant and all proceeds from the annual fund-raiser will be used toward the Driscoll Children's Asthma Center, – a center of excellence to provide specialized care for patients with complicated asthma and develop educational programs for both patients and physicians. This combined approach - incorporating education with therapy - will help the growing number of South Texas children who are diagnosed with asthma each year.

The \$75,000 grant is a part of an endowment fund that was established by the Driscoll Development Board eight years ago from funds generated by Fiesta de Los Ninos.

Joe Coco, vice president of refining and manufacturing manager for Flint Hills Resources, LP (formerly Koch Petroleum Group) said, "When Fiesta was born, Koch and the event's other community supporters envisioned building an endowment that would permanently support Driscoll Children's Hospital and its programs to provide essential medical services to children throughout South Texas. Flint Hill Resources is proud of the success of this effort and we remain strongly committed to the hospital and this wonderful program for children."

"We have combined the announcement of the grant for this year with our kick-off for the 2002 Fiesta de los Ninos in hopes of illustrating for our donors the direct impact that they have in helping the children of South Texas," said Kathy Hayes, director of development at Driscoll Children's Hospital. "Our sights are to raise more than the record \$250,000 that was raised at the 2001 Fiesta," said Hayes.

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"Fiesta de los Ninos continues to be a major source of funding for our hospital and once again we look forward to another outstanding evening of entertainment and fun that helps us advance our mission to provide vital medical services to children in South Texas," notes Rick Merrill, president and chief executive officer of Driscoll Children's Hospital.

The annual Fiesta de los Ninos includes a Texas Barbecue with all the trimmings as well as a silent and live auction including an electric guitar autographed by country star Tracy Byrd.

Tickets for the benefit start with tables of 10 for \$5,000, \$2,500, and \$1,500. Individual tickets for the event are \$100. Tickets and additional information for the 2002 Fiesta de los Ninos can be obtained by calling 361-854-4165.

Lenora Keys, president of the Driscoll Children's Development Foundation, said, "As in year's past, Fiesta de los Ninos will continue the tradition of good music, good food and good friends joining together to help the children of South Texas."

In his debut CD entitled "Play It Loud," Chris Cagle unleashes his unique version of high-octane country music that's like an icy glass of Jolt Cola and a pair of well-worn cowboy boots. In the tradition of the Charlie Daniels Band and Travis Tritt, "Play It Loud" blends the soul of rock and country to create a new sound that remains rough around the edges.

Born in Louisiana, he moved to the outskirts of Houston when he was four and soon became immersed in the Texas culture that remains so important to him today. The son of an Exxon supervisor, Cagle began guitar lessons at age six, but gave up after a year.

After a traditional Texas childhood that included piano lessons and high school football, Cagle enrolled in the University of Texas-Arlington, but his nights were spent performing in Texas clubs. At 19, he left Texas to pursue music full-time. He moved to Nashville in 1994, and a chance meeting brought him to Scott Hendricks, President of Virgin Records Nashville and soon landed a record deal. "Besides being an ultra-talented writer and artist, there's a lot of passion in his voice and writing," Hendricks says. "He brings an energy to country music that the format desperately needs."

*Driscoll Children's Hospital is committed to fulfilling its mission so that all children of South Texas can receive the finest health care services available. This commitment is reflected in the mission statement:*

*"Improve the health of adults and you give them back their health...  
Improve the health of children and you give them their life"*

*Remembering always our commitment to relieve suffering and meet the needs of children;  
it is the mission of Driscoll Children's Hospital to offer hope and healing  
in an environment of trust, compassion and care.*