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Koch Industries here donates \$75,000 to Driscoll Hospital

Driscoll Children's Hospital will receive \$75,000 today to kick off the hospital's ninth annual Fiesta de Los Niños fundraiser. This is the largest donation ever received from the Koch Industries endowment, which was created to sponsor the annual event.

The \$75,000 will be combined with money raised at the Fiesta de Los Niños fund-raising event scheduled for Feb. 16. The money will be donated to Driscoll's child abuse resource and evaluation program.

"This program deals with the victims of alleged or actual child abuse. It's an extremely difficult area but critical to serving the needs in south Texas," said Kathy Hayes, director of development for Driscoll Children's Hospital.

Details of the February

fundraiser, including the guest entertainers, will be announced at 11 a.m. today at the hospital. Money raised for the Fiesta de Los Niños program is donated to one Driscoll Children's Hospital program each year. Last year's fundraiser raised more than \$175,000 for the hospital's diabetes program. This year's event is expected to raise \$200,000, Hayes said.

The Koch endowment was created eight years ago to fund various programs at Driscoll, said Rich Tuttle, public affairs director for Koch, which underwrites the program and has contributed more than \$270,000 to program since its beginning, Tuttle said.

The Fiesta de Los Niños program has raised \$1.6 million since it was created eight years ago.