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To: Tom Freedman

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Here is the information on the program we talked about. I would be grateful for a meeting with you on February 3. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Hackensack University Medical Center

The Children's House

Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC), a regional teaching hospital in Northern New Jersey, has distinguished itself among health care institutions as a premier provider of medical services in an environment that is sensitive and responsive to patient and community needs. The Medical Center's position as a dynamic health care leader is demonstrated in recognized excellence of its programs and the full range of its services. The quality of its physicians, nursing care and health professionals, as well as its reputation for state-of-the-art facilities are repeatedly noted in published reports, awards and surveys. The institution's consistent growth and development attest to a pro-active, vital commitment to excellence in patient care and medicine.

HUMC has a facility that cares for and lodges abused children, and has proposed expanding its existing successful program to care for hundreds of children across New Jersey at no cost to their families. "Children's House," established in 1996 to serve the diagnostic and long-term needs of abused children and adolescents, expected to see 30 children annually, but today cares for nearly 300 children. Under a current Multi-Disciplinary Team Operational Directive of the Bergen County Prosecutor's office, medical examinations are conducted inside "Children's House," not in an emergency room. "Children's House" minimizes the trauma associated with the processes of investigating child abuse by coordinating these interventions of law enforcement, social workers and the medical team.

This priority program is subsidized by the HUMC as part of its commitment to providing charity care, which reached \$64 million in 1997 alone. "Children's House" began with a one time start-up grant of \$250,000 from the Office of the Bergen County Prosecutor and receives an annual grant of approximately \$200,000 from the State of New Jersey for its role as a Regional Diagnostic Center. Needless to say, this funding cannot meet the ongoing demand for these services.

There is an urgent need for facility expansion in order to meet both the current and projected needs. HUMC proposes replacing the current 1,500 square foot modified residential house with a 20,850 square foot facility to accommodate staff expansion and to add respite quarters to provide overnight stays in close proximity to the medical center.

HUMC is respectfully requesting consideration of a \$6 million grant to supplement our other sources in bringing the "Children's House" to reality. Successful culmination of the plan will bring a new level of care to the region and the children and families we serve. It is believed that the "Children's House" will serve as a model for similar programs throughout the Country.