



News Release

**Thomason Admitted to National
Network - NACHRI**

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The National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI) announced today that it has accepted El Paso's Thomason Hospital for Associate membership in the organization. Associate members shall be afforded participation in the educational and information activities of the Association and may be represented on its committees and councils. Thomason is the only local hospital to achieve Associate status with NACHRI.

"We are proud that NACHRI has recognized the work our physicians, nurses and ancillary staff are doing at Thomason on behalf of the children of our community," says Jim Valenti, President & CEO of the El Paso County Hospital District, "and we look forward to achieving Institutional member status in this national organization when we open El Paso's first full-service, separately licensed Children's Hospital in just a few years."

Thomason has proposed building a 140-bed, separately licensed Children's Hospital on the Thomason/Texas Tech campus. If approved by local voters on November 6, 2007, construction on the \$120 million facility will begin in the fall of 2008. It will open in 2011. Until then, El Paso will remain the largest city in the United States without a full-service, separately licensed Children's Hospital.

"We welcome Thomason to the family of care givers devoted to improving the health of children, and we look forward to its active involvement," says NACHRI President & CEO Lawrence A. McAndrews. "Because of their focus on children, institutions like Thomason are able to identify emerging trends and problems associated with the health of children."

The National Association of Children's Hospital's and Related Institutions is a not-for-profit membership association of 215 children's hospitals, large pediatric units at medical centers, and related organizations. NACHRI was established in 1968 to promote the health and well-being of children and their families through support for children's hospitals and health systems that are committed to excellence in providing healthcare to children.