



Cutting the ribbon are, from left: Colleen Kearney, MSN, APRN, BC, clinical coordinator/director of operations, The Audrey Hepburn Children's House; Samuel Toscano, Jr., chairman, Board of Governors; Robert C. Garrett, executive vice president and chief operating officer; Jeffrey Boscamp, M.D. chairman, Department of Pediatrics; Marisel Morales, New York/ New Jersey regional director, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); Robert L. Torre, vice president and chief operating officer, the medical center's Foundation; Sean Ferrer, chairman of The Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund; Congressman Steve Rothman (D-9); Mrs. Lucia Palestroni; City of Hackensack Mayor John "Jack" Zisa; Ellen Erwin, executive director, The Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund; Julia DeBellis, M.D., medical director, The Audrey Hepburn Children's House; Paul Alberghetti, secretary, The Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund; Giovanna Ferrer; Kirk Hallam, chief financial officer, The Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund; and Kathy Vincelli.

Hackensack University Medical Center dedicated the world's first Audrey Hepburn Children's House. A division of the Department of Pediatrics and The Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital at the medical center, the house serves as a state-designated Regional Diagnostic Center for Child Abuse and Neglect.

"This dedication represents another milestone for Hackensack University Medical Center and is a testament to the determination of the medical center team, The Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund and the many friends and supporters who helped build this facility," said John P. Ferguson, president and chief executive officer of the medical center. "More importantly this new house will provide much needed help to thousands of children and their families."

Sean Ferrer, Audrey Hepburn's son and chairman of The Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund, thanked those who made the building a reality. He remembered his mother and emphasized how important the center that bears her name would have meant to her.

"My mother felt when a child is robbed of his or her childhood it is the greatest crime that can be committed," Mr. Ferrer said. He then paid tribute to actress Natalie Portman, who was also on hand for the dedication, with a special pair of earrings from Tiffany

# October 7

## MEDICAL CENTER DEDICATES THE WORLD'S FIRST AUDREY HEPBURN CHILDREN'S HOUSE

*The house serves as a state-designated Regional Diagnostic Center for Child Abuse and Neglect*

Pictured from left: Wendy Eagan, Regional Vice President, Tiffany & Co.; Sean Ferrer, chairman of The Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund; actress Natalie Portman.



& Co. "You have been with us since the beginning of the fund...and you are here with us today. We're officially naming you 'the godmother' of The Audrey Hepburn Children's House at Hackensack University Medical Center."

Sean Ferrer also gave special thanks to The Palestroni Foundation, Inc. whose pledge of \$1 million helped complete the funding of the new home. Opened in 1996, the original house was located in a converted residence on Atlantic Street. In that first year of operation, it was estimated that the program would treat 50 to 100 children; however, nearly 300 children were seen that first year.

"This building is a place where broken lives will be healed," said Jeffrey Boscamp, M.D., chairman, Department of Pediatrics. "It's not enough to stop the abuse. You've got to take those broken lives and put them back together again."

Dr. Boscamp thanked the many friends and supporters who helped in making the house's completion come to fruition. He singled out Marvin I. Gottlieb, M.D., Ph.D., chairman emeritus, of The Department of Pediatrics and Mr. Ferguson for their vision in



Actress Natalie Portman is interviewed for the medical center's cable TV show, "HealthView."



Guests gather for the unveiling of a statue in front of the house. Titled "Spirit of Compassion," the modern sculpture created by artist John Kennedy depicts a mother cradling a child.



Students from Most Blessed Sacrament Elementary School, who helped raise funds for the new house, pose with Assemblywoman Rose Marie Heck (R-38). From left, Paul Giradi, 14; Michele Meli; Courtney DaBronzo, 15; Assemblywoman Heck; Jacqueline Lemaire, 15; Michael Giradi, 12; and Kayla Coburn, 12.



Jeffrey Boscamp, M.D., chairman, Department of Pediatrics and Marvin I. Gottlieb, M.D., Ph.D., chairman emeritus of The Department of Pediatrics, enjoy the festivities.



A division of the Department of Pediatrics and The Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital at the medical center, The Audrey Hepburn Children's House serves as a state-designated Regional Diagnostic Center for Child Abuse and Neglect.

creating the program and thanked the federal, state, and local officials who helped with funding. Former Senator Robert Torricelli (D-NJ) and Congressman Steve Rothman (D-9) were two of those who helped secure funding for the program.

"Child abuse and neglect tear at the heart of America's families and communities. There is virtually nothing more terrible than the physical or emotional abuse of a child," said Congressman Rothman. "They are victims with a voice too small to be heard on their own, so it is our responsibility to speak for them. These children are the most innocent of all of us, and when they are assaulted, the burden rests on the public and the community to reach out and show the compassion and care that these children so very much need."

The construction of The Audrey Hepburn Children's House was a federally assisted project. The total budget was \$6,277,685. \$3,366,400 or approximately 53.63 percent was funded by federal sources. The remaining approximate 46.37 percent or \$2,911,285 project balance was secured through philanthropic donations from private sources. Marisel Morales spoke on behalf of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for which she is the New York/ New Jersey Regional Director.

"I'm proud that we played a part in funding The Audrey Hepburn Children's House," said Ms. Morales.

"Proud because their innovative programs have become the prototype for New Jersey and the country."

Assemblywoman Rose Marie Heck (R-38), a long-time supporter of the house and other children's programs also praised the medical center for its innovative approach in dealing with the ills of child abuse and neglect. She singled out the generous efforts of children from Most Blessed Sacrament School, who helped raise monies for the house and were on hand for the ribbon cutting.

"Everyone in this room is playing a part in the betterment of a child's life, not only by being here, but by helping this program continue to grow and prosper," said Assemblywoman Heck.

Prior to the ceremony, Sean Ferrer helped unveil a statue outside The Audrey Hepburn Children's House. Titled "Spirit of Compassion," the sculpture created by artist John Kennedy depicts a mother cradling a child. In addition, the walkway leading to the house is paved with commemorative bricks that were purchased and personalized by medical center employees and friends, as well as the public at large. The pavers were sold through The Auxiliary.

"We see this building standing because of the generosity and the understanding of so many individuals," said City of Hackensack Mayor John "Jack" Zisa.

The house serves children and families in Bergen, Passaic, Hudson, Morris, Sussex, and Warren counties. The unique environment includes: medical exam-

ination rooms, evaluation and interview rooms with observation capabilities, therapeutic play areas for children, individual and group therapy rooms, and child-friendly waiting areas. Families are able to maintain confidentiality while children are not exposed to an emergency room setting. The house works in conjunction with law enforcement, The Division of Youth and Family Services, and other child protection agencies. Physicians, nurses, social workers, counselors and therapists provide comprehensive care for both the child and his or her family.

Samuel Toscano, Jr., chairman, Board of Governors marveled at the tremendous growth of the house and the medical center, in general, as he thanked all those who made it happen.

"Having been born here at the then-Hackensack Hospital and being raised in this great city of Hackensack, it's very touching to me to see a hospital turn into a phenomenal university medical center," Mr. Toscano said.

The program concluded with a preview of a medical center educational video about shaken baby syndrome. Julia DeBellis, M.D., medical director, The Audrey Hepburn Children's House introduced the segment.

"This important educational film is a collaborative effort between many dedicated professionals and other individuals who represent the best in the care and treatment of abused children," said Dr. DeBellis.