



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 27, 2012

Contact: Erin Corcoran
301-565-8523
Jeff Travers
202-222-8382

Celebrating Joe Robert's Legacy of Caring for Children and Country
Area nonprofits celebrate the philanthropic work of Joseph E. Robert Jr.

Washington, D.C. – Nonprofit executives, business leaders, government officials, and philanthropists gathered Feb. 23 at Children's National Medical Center to celebrate the life of the late Joseph E. Robert Jr. the evening before his birthday. "The only thing that would make this occasion better would be to have Joe here to blow out 60 candles and look ahead to many more birthdays," said Dr. Kurt Newman, president and CEO of Children's National.

Dr. Newman also reflected on Joe's incredible impact on children's health, including his \$25 million gift that created the Joseph E. Robert Jr. Center for Surgical Care and his leadership in creating the Sheikh Zayed Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation, made possible with a \$150 million donation from the Government of Abu Dhabi. "He was relentless to his last day, asking about the kids and what we were doing," he said.

The event was organized by Fight For Children, Children's National Medical Center, and Catholic Charities. Other speakers who reflected on Joe's legacy were Bret Baier of Fox News; Michela English, president and CEO of Fight For Children; General Charles Boyd (Ret.), former president and CEO of Business Executives for National Security; Colonel Fred Gerber (Ret.), Iraq Country Director for Project HOPE; Reverend Monsignor John Enzler, President and CEO of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington; and members of the Robert Family.

English reflected on Joe's leadership for Fight For Children and its signature event, Fight Night, which he founded more than 20 years ago. "Joe's vision and his tenacity built Fight For Children into a really strong organization to give kids access to a great education and quality health care programs. Thousands of kids have benefitted from Joe's efforts."

Joseph E. Robert III, said of his father, "All of you -- whether you started your relationship with my father as his friend, as a business partner, as a colleague, or as a fellow student -- ultimately he became your friend. He became intrinsically involved in all of our lives. Whether it was being involved in the care of your family or advancing your goals in life -- whether personal or your philanthropic efforts. He tried to use his own experience to make what you did better and more successful."

Baier shared the advice that Joe gave him shortly before he died. Joe told him: "You need to always keep fighting. Just remember what you're focused on, and keep

fighting for it. Remember the important things – your family, your friends. If you get off track, just dust yourself off and get back on track. Keep fighting.” Baier added, “This is a better hospital because of Joe Robert. It’s a better city because of Joe Robert. And frankly, it’s a better country because of Joe Robert....Hopefully, we’ll continue Joe’s good work, because that’s the biggest tribute we could give him today.”

Joe was the founder and executive chairman of J.E. Robert Companies, a leading private commercial real estate investment and asset management firm. Eight days before his death in December, he was inducted into the Washington Business Hall of Fame. Over his lifetime, he raised nearly a billion dollars for children, education, and other causes.

###

Children’s National Medical Center

Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, DC, has been serving the nation’s children since 1870. Home to Children’s Research Institute and the Sheikh Zayed Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation, Children’s National is consistently ranked among the top pediatric hospitals by U.S.News & World Report and the Leapfrog Group. With 303 beds, more than 1,330 nurses, 550 physicians, and seven regional outpatient centers, Children’s National is the only exclusive provider of pediatric care in the Washington metropolitan area. Children’s National has been recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center as a Magnet® designated hospital, the highest level of recognition for nursing excellence that a medical center can achieve. For more information, visit www.ChildrensNational.org, receive the latest news from the Children’s National [press room](#), or follow us [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Fight For Children

Fight For Children, founded in 1990 by the late Joseph E. Robert, Jr., is a 501(c)(3) organization committed to ensuring that low-income children in the District of Columbia receive a great education and stay healthy so they can learn. Since its founding, Fight For Children has raised or leveraged over \$450 million for education and healthcare programs serving low-income children in Washington, DC. Fight For Children’s fundraising events and other initiatives have directly raised \$100 million. An additional \$350 million in federal funding for DC education programs has resulted from the combined efforts of Fight For Children staff and Joe Robert.