Maxwell H. and Muriel Gluck Child Care Center Opens on Scripps Campus

La Jolla, CA. September 2, 1993 — After more than a decade of planning, the Maxwell H. and Muriel Gluck Child Care Center will open the doors of its state-of-the-art facility to the children of the Scripps medical, scientific and patient community on September 7, 1993. Employees of Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation, The Scripps Research Institute, and Scripps Memorial Hospitals, as well as patients of Scripps Clinic are eligible to utilize the new Center.

It is the first built-to-suit and largest employer-supported, on-site child care facility in San Diego.

The 8,000-square-foot facility is located on the east side of North Torrey Pines Road on the Lusk Research Campus, comprised of 21 acres of property directly across the street from the main campus of Scripps Clinic and The Scripps Research Institute. The Center has the capacity to care for 110 full-time children, from three months to preschool age, as well as 16 "drop-in" children brought to the facility while their parents attend to physician appointments at Scripps Clinic.

Designed by the San Diego architectural firm Leason Pomeroy Associates (LPA), four distinct areas have been created to meet the particular needs of children at various stages...
of development with an experiential, hands-on approach to learning. The design also includes a substantial outdoor space with three separate playground areas as well as a center stage/amphitheater for outdoor performances.

According to Paula Dean, Vice President of Human Resources and Education at The Scripps Research Institute, and President of the Board of Directors, Maxwell H. and Muriel Gluck Child Care Center, "Our goal is to provide an enriching, early childhood experience that will enhance each child's growth, development and individuality. In addition to fostering the child's natural sense of curiosity and exploration through numerous learning and play activities, a particular emphasis will be placed on the developing creativity through the visual and musical arts."

Plans for an on-site child care center at Scripps Clinic have been in the works for twelve years. According to Dean, the Scripps organization is no different from other local employers in its pressing need for quality, on-site child care. Like many areas in San Diego, La Jolla has a shortage of child care facilities, particularly for infants, she said.

"It has been well documented that employer-sponsored day care facilities reduce employee absenteeism, increase productivity and boost morale," Dean continued. "The responsibility for child care is no longer exclusively with the parents; employers must play a role as well. We at Scripps are delighted to offer a campus-based program for the benefit of our staff and patients."

The cost for developing and equipping the child care center is $1.5 million. The entire sum has been raised through philanthropic donations. A gift of $750,000 was contributed by the Maxwell H. Gluck Foundation to help underwrite construction.
"Muriel Gluck and her late husband, Maxwell, have been magnanimous supporters of Scripps Clinic for many years," said William Nelson, Chairman of the Board of Scripps Institutions of Medicine and Science. With this latest gift, we are able to provide much needed on-site care in a unique environment that is both nurturing and stimulating. Mrs. Gluck is a remarkable individual whose generosity, wisdom and foresight is an inspiration to the community."

In addition to the Gluck Foundation’s gift of $750,000, Mrs. Gluck will make a personal bequest of an additional $750,000 to establish a permanent fund to support musical and visual arts programs in the Gluck Child Care Center.

Operating expenses will be covered by tuition fees. A scholarship program has been established to ensure the availability of the center’s services to employees throughout the institution. Other commitments have been made in support of the center, including gifts from BankAmerica Foundation, Wells Fargo Bank, the Charles C. and Sue K. Edwards Foundation, the Scripps Clinic Auxiliary and the Scripps Memorial Hospitals Foundation.

Early childhood educator Mary Hampton recently has been named Executive Director of the Center. She will supervise a staff of more than 20 employees, including an assistant director, teachers and teaching assistants. Special care has been taken to maintain a high staff to child ratio.

Prior to this appointment, she served as the child development program specialist for the Bassett Unified School District in La Puente, Calif., with responsibility for implementing numerous programs including Head Start/State Preschool, State Preschool, Latchkey, and a parent support preschool program. She has more than 14 years of experience in the
field of child care and early childhood education.

Hampton is an advocate of providing children with experiences that promote understanding and reduce bias. "I believe that all people, regardless of age or gender or size, have the right to be respected and treated with dignity," she added.

At the time of the opening, the Center is fully subscribed with a waiting list in most age categories.

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