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CHOC Earns CAPE Award for Innovation, Service and Performance Excellence

(Orange, CA, January 31, 2008) – Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) has been recognized with the Bronze Level CAPE (California Awards for Performance Excellence) Award from the California Council for Excellence (CCE). CHOC is the only children's hospital in California to ever earn this distinction and the only Orange County-based organization honored this year.

The CAPE Program, administered by the CCE, emulates the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award and is the highest recognition in the state for performance excellence. The CAPE Program, employing the same rigorous criteria used on the national level, recognizes organizations that demonstrate continuous improvement and superior performance in the areas of leadership, strategic planning, customer and market focus, measurement/knowledge management, human resources, process management and business results.

This prestigious award is an addition to a range of recent accomplishments for CHOC. As Orange County's pediatric healthcare leader, CHOC is currently growing to better serve the needs of the community's children and families, including the new 30-bed Pediatric/Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (PICU), current expansion of the Ambulatory Care Center, continuous implementation of new technology, and innovative patient and safety initiatives, which have prompted CHOC's inclusion on the Leapfrog "Top Hospital's 2007" list.

CHOC will be honored along with other CAPE Award recipients at the CCE's 14th Annual Conference & Awards Ceremony to be held on Friday, March 28, 2008, at the Renaissance Hotel in Long Beach. CHOC has been invited to make a presentation on the hospital's journey and best practices at the conference.

Named one of the nation's top children's hospitals by CHILD magazine, Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) is exclusively committed to the health and well being of children through clinical expertise, advocacy, outreach and research that brings advanced treatment to our patients. CHOC's growing healthcare network includes two state-of-the-art hospitals in Orange and Mission Viejo, several community clinics, a residency program that trains tomorrow's pediatricians, and four centers of excellence - The Heart, Cancer, Neuroscience, and Orthopaedic Institutes.

CHOC earned the "Excellence in Patient Safety & Health Care Quality Award" from the state's leading health plans, and was one of only eight children's hospitals in the nation to be named to the Leapfrog "Top Hospitals 2007" list, based on results from The Leapfrog Group's Hospital Quality and Safety Survey. For more information about CHOC, visit www.choc.org or call 714-997-3000.

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