



For Immediate Release

For more information:

Denise Charpentier, Vice President, Marketing and Public Relations, Research Medical Center, (816) 276-9293

Nathan Jackson, Executive Director, Hope Family Care Center, (816) 888-5633

Kimberly Winter Stern, HCA Midwest Health System News Bureau, (913) 449-4294

HOPE FAMILY CARE CENTER EXPANDS AND WELCOMES NEW PHYSICIAN

*Cymanthia Thomas, MD, joins the nonprofit through a partnership
with Research Medical Center.*

WHO: Hope Family Care Center (HFCC) and Research Medical Center

WHAT: Grand Opening of Hope Family Care Center's Remodeled and Expanded Facility; Welcome New Physician Cymanthia Thomas, MD.

WHEN: 4 p.m., Friday, Oct. 4, 2013

WHERE: Hope Family Care Center, 3027 Prospect, Kansas City, Mo., 64218

WHY: Before HFCC — a nonprofit, faith-based family practice — opened its doors in fall 2009 at 3027 Prospect Ave., there was no primary care facility available in the immediate neighborhood. During the first year and a half of operation, HFCC was staffed by a rotation of doctors and nurses who volunteered their time to see patients. HFCC was only open in the mornings, making it difficult for some patients to make appointments. Despite the challenges, HFCC has treated thousands of patients since its inception.

HFCC has expanded and remodeled its facility to include additional examination rooms, a larger waiting room and more resources to assist in caring for residents of Kansas City's east side community. In addition to Jeremy Kirchoff, MD, HFCC's first full-time physician, who came through a partnership with Research Medical Center, Cymanthia Thomas, MD, will join the clinic. She is a primary care physician for HFCC patients and also provides prenatal care for expectant mothers.

In order to provide the neglected east side neighborhood with adequate medical care, Research Medical Center — part of HCA Midwest Health System, Kansas City's largest healthcare provider — has committed more than \$1.1 million since 2011. This investment in the east side's healthcare has allowed HFCC to build the practice and retain a full-time staff of 11, extend its operating hours and provide high-quality, personalized healthcare to contribute to the community's transformation.

HFCC's strong Christian values and emphasis on community restoration attracted Dr. Thomas to join the clinic. "When Research Medical Center gave me the opportunity to join Hope Family Care Center, I was thrilled," she says. "HFCC is taking a holistic, multi-faceted approach to investing in a neighborhood and it's important to me to be part of a community that, through the love of Christ, is also addressing the larger problems present in the neighborhood."

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Tom Kettler, MD, one of the HFCC's founding physicians, notes the clinic's expansion and the addition of Dr. Thomas are key components to its continued community mission. "The goals are for neighborhood restoration and to provide high-quality healthcare to residents," says Dr. Keller. "We want to be a catalyst that creates opportunities for neighborhood residents. HFCC plays a vital role in that strategy.

We are extremely grateful for Research Medical Center's involvement in making another full-time physician available to HFCC patients, helping to build a better quality of life for them."

Kevin Hicks, Chief Executive Officer, Research Medical Center, says the partnership is an integral part of the hospital's community outreach. "We are a part of this community and want residents to have access to quality and compassionate healthcare for themselves and their families," he says. "Dr. Thomas emulates the professional values representative of Research Medical Center, which has served the Kansas City area for more than 125 years."

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About Hope Family Care Center

Hope Family Care Center (HFCC) was established in 2009 on the east side of Kansas City, Missouri to meet the medical needs of an under-served urban community. The goal of HFCC is to make high-quality primary health care available to all members of the community, regardless of income. Through consistent, preventative medical care, HFCC desires to be a contributing factor to lasting community renewal. HFCC accepts most medical insurance, Medicaid and Medicare. Payment for uninsured patients is assessed on a sliding scale. For more information, visit hfckc.org.

About Research Medical Center

Research Medical Center serves patients from a 150-mile region surrounding Kansas City by providing an abundance of services and access to advanced technology. The hospital, located at 2316 East Meyer Boulevard in Kansas City, Mo., is one of the region's leading acute care hospitals. The 490-bed facility features a broad range of highly specialized, state-of-the-art services. In addition, the 25-acre Research Brookside Campus, located at 6601 Rockhill Road in Kansas City, Mo., includes outpatient facilities, medical office buildings, and a comprehensive health and fitness center. The Breast Center of Research Medical Center is accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), which is administered by the American College of Surgeons. Accreditation by the NAPBC is only given to those centers that have voluntarily committed to provide the highest level of quality breast care and that undergo a rigorous evaluation process and review of their performance. Research Medical Center has received the Get With The Guidelines Coronary Artery Disease- Gold; the Get With the Guidelines Heart Failure-Gold Plus; and the Get With the Guidelines Stroke-Gold Plus Performance Achievement Awards from the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association and was recognized in the August 2010 issue of *US News & World Report*. A total of 961 awards are given for achievement in Coronary Artery Disease, Stroke and/or heart failure treatment. Of 961, Research Medical Center was one of 33 to receive a Triple Gold Award. For more information, go to researchmedicalcenter.com and researchbrookside.com.

About HCA Midwest Health System

HCA Midwest Health System is the Kansas City area's largest healthcare provider consisting of 10 hospitals, outpatient centers, clinics, physician practices, surgery centers and an array of other services to meet the healthcare needs of the greater Kansas City area. HCA Midwest Health System is also the area's largest private sector employer with more than 9,000 employees, the largest provider of charity and uncompensated care, and annually donates more than \$1.2 million to local charities. Since April 2003, HCA Midwest Health System has invested more than \$845 million to enhance and expand patient services and has paid more than \$216 million in taxes to local communities. HCA Midwest Health System facilities serving the Kansas City area include Allen County Regional Hospital, Belton Regional Medical Center, Cass Regional Medical Center, Centerpoint Medical Center, Lafayette Regional Health Center, Lee's Summit Medical Center, Menorah Medical Center, Overland Park Regional Medical Center, Research Medical Center and Research Psychiatric Center. Midwest Physicians, which is part of HCA Midwest Health System, is a network of experienced, multi-specialty physicians located throughout the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area. Midwest Physicians currently represents 346 physicians, including 142 primary care providers and 199 specialists with 80 physician practices providing care in 145 locations to serve the community. The physicians, licensed professionals and support staff who comprise the HCA Midwest Health System team are dedicated to improving healthcare in the Greater Kansas City and outlying areas. For more information, visit hcamidwest.com.