



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Minnesota Credit Unions for Kids supports nationally-ranked hospital

### ***Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare included in U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Children's Hospitals" Ranking***

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** – Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare was recently ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation for orthopedics in U.S. News Media Group's 2009 edition of *America's Best Children's Hospitals*. The ranking – which included 162 children's hospitals – was announced in June and published in the August issue of *U.S. News & World Report*.

Designated Minnesota's Children's Miracle Network-affiliate hospital, all funds raised through the Minnesota Credit Unions for Kids (MnCU4Kids) program support Gillette, an independent, not-for-profit hospital located in St. Paul with outreach clinics around the state.

Last year, MnCU4Kids raised more than \$155,000 through the generous support of credit unions, credit union members, and local and national companies that serve financial institutions. Money is raised through a variety of large- and small-scale fundraisers – statewide events included golf and bowling tournaments, and individual credit unions coordinate cook-outs, candy bar and popcorn sales, and casual days.

“So many credit unions and credit union members throughout the state already know and believe in Gillette's excellence, and this national ranking only reinforces that fact,” said MnCU4Kids Co-Chair Katie Grindeland of Star Choice Credit Union. “I'm incredibly proud of the things Minnesota credit unions have done for Gillette patients through the Credit Unions for Kids program.”

The Center for Pediatric Orthopaedics is one of Gillette's busiest centers of care, treating patients from throughout the U.S. In addition, Gillette treats children who have craniofacial conditions, neuromuscular conditions, traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy, spina bifida and other complex medical conditions.



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This fall, Gillette will begin a major expansion and renovation project to its St. Paul clinic, thanks in part to funds raised by Minnesota credit unions.

“Our recognition by *U.S. News & World Report* was in orthopedics, but it’s really a reflection of the excellent patient care and service we provide in all of our areas of care,” said Darlis Clausen, Children’s Miracle Network Director at Gillette. “Our expansion will help us meet growing demand for our services, ensuring we can provide the best possible patient care for many years to come.

“We are extremely grateful to Minnesota credit unions for their support, and look forward to a continued partnership with Minnesota Credit Unions for Kids,” Clausen added.

MnCU4Kids was recently noted in a Credit Unions for Kids impact report, which detailed credit unions’ contributions to Children’s Miracle Network. The report – which included fundraising efforts of credit unions throughout the country – highlighted Gillette’s Advanced Imaging Center, which opened in June 2008 and now performs approximately 700 exams every month.

Nationally, the Credit Unions for Kids program ranks third in the U.S. for corporate giving, behind Wal-Mart and Costco. Children’s Miracle Network helps 17 million patients per year.

**Links:**

[U.S. News & World Report’s “America’s Best Children’s Hospitals](#)  
[Minnesota Credit Unions for Kids](#)  
[Gillette Children’s Specialty Healthcare](#)  
[Children’s Miracle Network](#)

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*Credit Unions for Kids is a subcommittee of the Minnesota Credit Union Foundation. MNCUF is a non-profit organization founded in 1969 to serve as a charitable arm of the Minnesota credit union movement. It has aided credit unions, their employees and volunteers in many times of need, providing funds for educational scholarships, charitable purposes, disaster relief, and for the betterment of the movement.*  
*For more information, visit [www.mncufoundation.org](http://www.mncufoundation.org).*