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ELMHURST HOSPITAL CENTER HOSTS 180TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Dynamic Leaders in the Fields of Business and Healthcare Gathered for EHC's Celebration of Almost Two Centuries of Providing Quality Care to the Community

On Thursday, May 17, 2012, Elmhurst Hospital Center (EHC) held its 180th Anniversary Gala at Terrace on the Park in Flushing. Proceeds from the event benefited EHC's new Women's Healthcare Services Pavilion, a state-of-the-art outpatient facility scheduled to open in Spring 2013.

Honorees included Dr. Jasmin Moshirpur, Regional Medical Director of the Queens Health Network and Dean at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Eileen Auld, New York State Director of Citigroup Community Development, and Patricia Wang, President and CEO of HealthFirst. Alan Aviles, President of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, also received special recognition for his leadership regarding patient safety initiatives. NY1 News Anchor and Reporter Cheryl Wills served as the evening's Master of Ceremonies.

"Since its inception 180 years ago, Elmhurst Hospital Center has delivered vital healthcare services to diverse groups of people—from Civil War veterans, to New York City's underserved and uninsured, as well as immigrants," said Chris Constantino, Elmhurst Hospital Center's Executive Director. "As we enter the next phase of our history and expand to meet the demands of our growing patient population, we will continue our commitment to excellence and our ongoing mission to provide safe, easily-accessible, high-quality healthcare to all those who need it."

The roots of what would become Elmhurst Hospital can be traced back to 1832 and a facility on Blackwell's Island (later known as Roosevelt Island). Originally called Charity Hospital, it was rebuilt following an 1858 fire. In 1862, the City of New York negotiated a contract with the United States government to provide care to wounded Union soldiers. By 1870, the hospital's name had been changed again to City Hospital and the building expanded to include a full-fledged maternity unit that developed safer methods to control puerperal or "childbed" fever and substantially reduce maternal deaths.

As the 20th century dawned, the hospital would retain its role as a pioneering healthcare organization. It treated victims of the 1918 flu pandemic, developed innovative lab research techniques, and established America's first children's healthcare center. Relocating from Roosevelt Island to Queens in 1957, City Hospital was renamed Elmhurst Hospital and in 1964 became affiliated with Mount Sinai Hospital and School of Medicine. Since then Elmhurst Hospital Center has undergone several expansion projects and is now one of New York City's premier acute care facilities.

For additional information about attending EHC's 180th Anniversary celebration please contact Atiya Butler, Assistant Director of External Affairs, at (718) 334-1259 or by email at butlerat@nychhc.org.