



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CARING CLOWNS PERFORM AT ELMHURST HOSPITAL CENTER'S "HELPING  
KIDS HEAL"**

**PEDIATRIC CARE FUNDRAISING EVENT AT P.S. 19 Q**

*Professional Clowns from East Meets West Clown Tour and Corona School Kids Raise Funds  
for Elmhurst Hospital Center*

On February 20, 2013, Elmhurst Hospital Center and P.S. 19 in Corona, Queens partnered together for "Helping Kids Heal", a fundraising event benefiting Elmhurst Hospital Center's Pediatric Department. Twelve clowns from the New York City area and from Japan, who are participants in this year's New York Clown Alley East-West Tour, performed two one-hour back to back shows in the school's auditorium to entertain school children grades K through 5. Their comedic performances included juggling, magic, acrobatics, and balloon art.

The children at PS 19 attended the event free of charge thanks to the generosity of the community and local businesses. "Helping Kids Heal" raised over \$2,500, with proceeds from event sponsorship donated to the Elmhurst Hospital Auxiliary for renovation of EHC's pediatric treatment areas. The students of PS 19 also undertook fundraising in support of the hospital, raising an additional \$800 for one of the busiest medical facilities in Queens.

Council Member Julissa Ferreras (D-East Elmhurst) attended the event and encouraged the students to follow their dreams. “Being able to join the Helping Kids Heal EHC fundraiser at P.S. 19 was such a joy,” said Ferreras , who attended P.S. 19 as a child and later worked at the school as a Beacon Program Director. “Seeing children learning while laughing just goes to show how essential these events are to the students and faculty. I am thankful that we have such a wonderful hospital in the community that truly cares about the health and well-being of our residents.”

“Laughter is the world’s best medicine, and on behalf of the New York Clown Alley East-West Tour, we’re excited to bring our show to the children of PS 19, and to support the Pediatrics Department of Elmhurst Hospital,” said Cyrus Zavieh, President of the New York Clown Alley. “If I can take away the pain of a sick child or geriatric patient for a while, then I have done my job not only as a clown, but as a person”.

“Thanks to the generous support of our Helping Kids Heal sponsors, we’re thrilled to be able to bring this world-class entertainment to the children of PS 19,”said Elmhurst Hospital Executive Director Chris Constantino. “Money raised from this event will help us make much-needed improvements to our pediatric treatment areas and playrooms.”

The clown troupe will visit other area hospitals before embarking on an international engagement to visit and perform for hospitalized children in Malaysia. For more information on this event, please call 718.334.1259. To find out more about how to support pediatric care at Elmhurst Hospital Center, please visit [nyc.gov/elmhursthospital/give](http://nyc.gov/elmhursthospital/give).

### **About Elmhurst Hospital Center**

Elmhurst Hospital Center (EHC), part of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC), is the major tertiary care provider in the borough of Queens. The hospital is comprised of 545 beds and is a Level 1 Trauma Center, an Emergency Heart Care Station and a 911-Receiving Hospital. It is a premiere health care organization for key areas such as Surgery, Cardiology, Women’s Health, Pediatrics, Rehabilitation Medicine, and Renal and Mental Health Services.

Elmhurst Hospital Center serves an area of approximately one million people in a community recognized as the most ethnically diverse in the world. Last year, EHC received close to 700,000 ambulatory care visits as well as receiving over 130,000 Emergency Room visits, making it one of the busiest hospitals in New York City. Over 4,000 babies were delivered at Elmhurst last year alone—the most in this region. Ensuring accessible health care is our priority.

## **About the Elmhurst Hospital Center Auxiliary**

The EHC Auxiliary is a group of dedicated people whose mission is to provide for those patient amenities that would otherwise not be available through the normal hospital operating budget. The Auxiliary is comprised of concerned members of the community who, in addition to donating their time to the Auxiliary, are Volunteers placed in various assignments throughout the hospital. They are among the hospital's most valued contributors. Through the years, the Auxiliary has provided various items and services to patients in need. The Auxiliary's primary goal is to furnish help in the recovery and well-being of patients. The Auxiliary holds a very unique position in the hospital because it acts as an agent that can receive and administer funds. The funds are accumulated through fundraising by the Auxiliary and others and from direct donations. These funds are used only for the enhancement of patient care and for selected patient amenities. For more information on how to support Elmhurst Hospital Center's Auxiliary, please call 718.334.5175.