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Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare Opens New Brainerd Lakes Clinic
Permanent Site to House Assistive Technology Services; Provide Mobile Outreach Clinic Hub

[Saint Paul, Minn.] – **June 28, 2010** – Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare has opened a new Brainerd Lakes Clinic, part of its continuing efforts to provide specialty medical care to families in communities throughout Minnesota. The new clinic, located at 15860 Audubon Way in Baxter, Minn., will provide assistive technology services— including orthoses (braces), custom wheelchair and seating adaptations, CrainoCaps, and augmentative communication devices — to patients in the Brainerd Lakes area. It will also serve as a permanent hub for assistive technology services, allowing us to see greater numbers of children, teens and adults in central and northern Minnesota.

Gillette's Brainerd Lakes Clinic is a new location for assistive technology fittings and adjustments. But Gillette has been part of the Brainerd community for more than 25 years, offering rehabilitation medicine and assistive technology to local patients as part of its Mobile Outreach Clinic — traveling clinics that bring Gillette's providers and services to more than 19 communities in the state. With a permanent base in Brainerd Lakes, the Mobile Outreach Clinic will travel to neighboring communities more frequently. For example, outreach visits to Bemidji and Grand Rapids will nearly double.

“Children who have disabilities often have complex health needs that require frequent medical care,” says Dave Wilkie, manager of outreach services at Gillette. “But traveling to Gillette's St. Paul Clinic for every appointment can be cost-prohibitive for families in greater Minnesota because of driving mileage, lost wages and limited vacation time. Our presence in local communities means that patients and families can access specialized care more easily.”

Although the majority of assistive technology services will be provided at the newly opened Brainerd Lakes Clinic, families can see a Gillette physician, nurse practitioner, an assistive technology specialist or nurse at the Brainerd Medical Center, where Gillette leases a clinic area. Moving assistive technology to a permanent site creates additional space, making it possible to provide increased services to growing volumes of patients.

“By having a permanent hub in Brainerd Lakes, we’ll be even better equipped to provide high-quality, specialized care in a region thousands of our patients call home,” explains Wilkie. “In addition, our permanent base means that area families will have a convenient location for important repairs and adjustments to their assistive technology.”

Families can make an appointment in the Brainerd Lakes area by calling 800-578-4266 or by visiting www.gillettechildrens.org.

About Gillette Children’s Specialty Healthcare

Gillette, an independent, not-for-profit hospital and clinics, is internationally recognized for its work in the diagnosis and treatment of children and young adults who have disabilities or complex medical needs, such as cerebral palsy, complex orthopaedic conditions, craniofacial anomalies, neurological conditions, brain and spinal-cord injuries, spina bifida and juvenile arthritis. Gillette provides services to the community in St. Paul, Maple Grove, Burnsville, Minnetonka, Duluth, Brainerd Lakes, and Willmar.

Since 1897, Gillette has been at the forefront of medical treatment, technology, education and research for children with disabilities. Gillette’s mission is to help children, adults and their families improve their health, achieve greater well-being, and enjoy life. For more information, visit www.gillettechildrens.org.