

August 31, 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: DEBORAH ROBERTS PUGH
(662) 377-3712

**NMMC PLANS SEPT. 25 REUNION FOR
FORMER INTENSIVE CARE NURSERY PATIENTS**

TUPELO, Miss.– The North Mississippi Medical Center Women's Hospital invites all Neonatal Intensive Care Unit “graduates” to a reunion Saturday, Sept. 25.

Children who were treated in the NICU, as well as their families, are invited to join the fun from 10 a.m.-noon at Women’s Hospital 4566 S. Eason Blvd. The free event offers refreshments, games and prizes, but the main draw is to see the progress these children have made.

“Our staff becomes extremely attached to these babies because many of them spend a great deal of time in our intensive care nursery before they are able to go home with their parents,” said Bryan Darling, M.D., a neonatologist (newborn specialist) with the Women’s Hospital. “We look forward to seeing them return for a visit.” Additional neonatologists on staff are John Nading, M.D., Patrick O’Mara, M.D., and Dennis Wright, M.D.

The entire nursery staff and respiratory therapists plan this event together to make it as much fun as possible for former patients and their families. Staff members who work closely with the infants and their families say it’s like planning an event for a huge extended family.

The 34-bed intensive care nursery treats patients born at the Women’s Hospital as well as those transferred in from other area hospitals by NMMC’s mobile intensive care unit, an ambulance specially equipped for neonatal transport. More than 300 infants are admitted to the NICU annually, and more than one-fourth of them are transported to Tupelo from area hospitals. The neonatal transport team includes registered nurses who specialize in neonatal intensive care as well as respiratory therapists.

For more information on the NICU Reunion, call 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375).