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Groundbreaking held for new Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital

By **BARBARA MILLER, The Patriot-News**
November 13, 2009, 3:49PM

While Amy Brixius of Harrisburg hopes her daughter Molly's chemotherapy treatments are a thing of the past by the time the new Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital is completed in 2012, she knows the benefits it will bring to families with sick children.

"On a clinic day now when all the kids are there it's really jammed," Brixius said. "The space is very small, but the staff makes up for that," she said. "But bigger would be nicer."

Groundbreaking was held Friday for the 252,000 square-foot, five-story hospital, which will be built beside the new hospital entrance. It will offer all pediatric care, including surgical, intensive, cancer and outpatient care in one site.

The new hospital is also bringing jobs, which Gov. Ed Rendell highlighted in announcing the state's commitment of \$14 million to the \$255 million project.

Rendell said the project "couldn't come at a better time" for the state, bringing 300 construction and eventually 1,200 health care jobs.

"Since the recession began Dauphin County lost 6,600 jobs," Rendell said, adding that the hospital will recover 20 percent of them.

He said the state's 8.8 percent unemployment rate is below the national level of 10.2 percent, but still higher than the 4.1 percent in Dauphin County when the recession began.

Adding a midstate children's hospital to those in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia is a proud moment for Pennsylvania, Rendell said.

"No state in the union has three children's hospitals of that caliber," Rendell said.

"No child will have to leave this area for cutting-edge pediatric care," said Dr. Harold Paz, Hershey Medical Center CEO, adding that it will benefit the estimated one million children in central Pennsylvania.

The facility is also expected to bring in research grants, and Paz said every dollar of National Institutes of Health search money translates to \$5-7 for the local economy.

Also announced at the groundbreaking was the donation of the final \$3 million needed for the hospital to reach its \$65 million fund-raising goal. Ed Arnold of Lebanon announced he and his wife Jeanne would give the remaining \$3 million, which is on top of \$5 million they previously committed to the project.

The hospital will include pediatric-specific facilities including five operating suites and recovery area, 36 intermediate/intensive care beds, cardiac catheterization lab, radiology unit, and an outpatient cancer pavilion to support bone marrow transplants and other treatments.

The children's hospital now occupies the medical center's seventh floor.

Site work will begin immediately, with excavation to start in February and

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Posted by **sliceofpizza**
November 13, 2009, 6:17PM

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how much more land will come off the tax rolls in hershey
so the entire town of hershey will be tax exempt

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Posted by **bybyereed**
November 13, 2009, 6:25PM

http://www.pennstatehershey.org/c/document_library/get_file?folderId=11516&name=DLFE-1.pdf

You can see the future children's hospital to the left of the main entrance.

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