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Christiana Care Health System Hosts Premiere of "The Ripple Effect" at Penn Cinema Riverfront

Documentary Shows Medical Consequences of Gun and Gang Violence

(WILMINGTON, Del. – Jan. 23) Christiana Care Health System will host a premiere screening of a powerful, new documentary on the medical consequences of gun and gang violence from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23rd at the Penn Cinema Riverfront in Wilmington.

"The Ripple Effect" shows live footage from the trauma center at Christiana Care's Christiana Hospital, as health care teams race to save the lives of gunshot victims. The documentary also features interviews with Christiana Care's trauma surgeons and trauma nurses, as well as a former Wilmington gang member who had been shot and treated at Christiana Hospital.

Following the premiere of "The Ripple Effect," Christiana Care's trauma surgeons and nurses will speak about their experience caring for gunshot victims and the deadly and debilitating consequences of gun and gang violence.

"Victims of gun violence and gang activity face death or devastating injuries that afflict them for the rest of their lives," said Mark D. Cipolle, M.D., chief of trauma surgery at Christiana Care. "Part of our promise to our patients is not only to care for them when they are sick, but also to partner with them to help them stay safe and healthy. Our hope through this documentary is to dissuade more young people from resorting to crime. That way, we can have fewer lives impacted by the very preventable problem of gunshot violence."

Christiana Hospital is the only Level 1 trauma center that treats both adults and children in Delaware and the only one located between Baltimore and Philadelphia, meaning it offers the highest capability of trauma care in the region. Christiana Hospital's full range of trauma specialists treats more than 4,000 patients each year for every aspect of injury, from prevention through rehabilitation.

As a Level 1 trauma center, Christiana Hospital educates the community as well as patients on injury prevention, which includes ways to reduce the rate of violent crime among children and teenagers.

As a result of a grant from the Criminal Justice Council through the U.S. Attorney Office's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, "The Ripple Effect" is the second of two videos on the medical consequences of gun and gang violence that Christiana Care has spearheaded. The first

video, "Choice Road," is a fictional film that debuted in 2011 and tells the story of the medical consequences of one teenager's decision to join a gang. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a comprehensive national anti-gun/anti-gang initiative that aims to reduce gun and gang violence in cities across America.

Both videos are produced by IAM Film Works of Dover, Del. As a community benefit, the Penn Cinema Riverfront is providing its theatre for use for free for the premiere of "The Ripple Effect."

Editor's note: The screening is not open to the public. Members of the media are invited to attend the screening and panel discussion. Contact Hiran Ratnayake at hratnayake@christianacare.org or at (302) 327-3327 (work) or (302) 299-3562 (cell) to attend.

About Christiana Care Health System

Christiana Care Health System is one of the country's largest health care providers, ranking as the 21st leading hospital in the nation and 11th on the East Coast in terms of admissions. A not-for-profit teaching hospital affiliated with Thomas Jefferson Medical College, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services, as well as for its Level-I trauma care and Level-3 neonatal intensive care (both highest capability). Christiana Care includes two hospitals with 1,100 patient beds, a home health care service, preventive medicine, rehabilitation services, a network of primary care physicians and an extensive range of outpatient services.

For more information about Christiana Care, visit www.christianacare.org/whoweare.

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