



Contact: Natalie Dyke  
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### **The real Patch Adams comes to Delaware**

*Physician and comedian to meet with physicians and patients and speak to community*

(Wilmington, DE January 26, 2004) Hunter "Patch" Adams, M.D., the real-life physician and comedian who inspired the 1998 movie bearing his name starring Robin Williams, is coming to Christiana Care next month. Dr. Adams, a nationally renowned motivational speaker, will present grand rounds to physicians and nurses and will visit patients at Christiana Care facilities on Wednesday, Feb. 11. He will also give a talk on *The Joy of Caring* to help rejuvenate an audience of 250, (primarily) women overwhelmed with caring for spouses, children, parents, careers and their community, on Thursday, Feb. 12. **(NOTE: This event is SOLD OUT.)**

"We decided to bring Patch Adams to Christiana Care because we need to be reminded why we take care of people," says Lamar E. Ekbladh, M.D., chair of Christiana Care's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, who was instrumental in bringing Dr. Adams to our community to meet with both health care professionals and family caregivers. "Patch can relight that flame and he does it with such a passion for keeping the person in focus and in the center of our thoughts that we can come away rejuvenated."

Proceeds from the Feb. 12 event will benefit Christiana Care's Women's and Children's Health Programs. Christiana Care's maternity service is one of the busiest in the nation with more than 7,000 babies delivered last year alone.

Patch Adams is president of Gesundheit! Institute and a proponent of the importance of caring for others and our communities.

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***Note to Reporters and Editors: Interview requests with Patch Adams must be received no later than Tuesday, Feb. 10.*** Call Natalie Dyke at 327-3306 or Bill Schmitt at 327-3318 for more information.

Christiana Care Health System, which traces its roots back to 1888, is one of the region's largest not-for profit health care providers, serving the people of Delaware as well as neighboring Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. A teaching hospital, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services, as well as Level-I trauma care and Level-3 neonatal intensive care (both highest intensity). Christiana Care operates two hospitals, long-term and transitional care services and an extensive range of outpatient and home health services. Last year, Christiana Care provided more than \$37 million of charity care.