



**For Immediate Release**

April 21, 2010

Lauren Fulton  
Dispensary of Hope  
615.254.0575

Cathy Everett  
Nashville General Hospital  
615.341.4082

**Dispensary of Hope and Nashville General Hospital to Expand Prescription Medications Coverage to Nashville Residents in Need**

*-- Partnership Allows Patients Access to More Than 2,000 Covered Medications--*

**(Nashville, Tenn.)-** The Dispensary of Hope and Nashville General Hospital are pleased to announce that as of today, the Dispensary's Continued Access Program, which provides uninsured patients with long-term pharmaceutical access, will be offered at Nashville General Hospital.

"By offering this program, Nashville General is able to improve the quality of care for our patients," said Jason Boyd, chief executive officer of Metropolitan Nashville Hospital Authority. "Obtaining prescriptions is a barrier for many patients, and this program will ensure access to their medications. Additionally, we hope to see a decrease in the number of patients presenting to the emergency room with progressed illnesses due to an inability to afford necessary prescription drugs."

This new partnership supports Mayor Karl Dean's February 2010 Poverty Reduction Initiative Plan, which aims to reduce poverty by 50 percent over the next 10 years. Nashville General Hospital and the Dispensary of Hope are a specific part of that plan, charged with the goal of increasing access to affordable medication. The Continued Access Program perfectly answers that call, giving patients who struggle to pay for multiple prescriptions month over month a more affordable option.

The Continued Access Program provides access more than 2,000 medications to treat a variety of chronic conditions, including heart disease, diabetes, and neurological disorders. The program offers an end-to-end solution by centralizing enrollment and coordinating fulfillment, while also providing on-going support year round.

"We are committed to providing support to hospitals that serve on the front lines of healthcare for vulnerable populations," says Scott Cornwell, chief operating officer of the Dispensary of Hope. "Offering this program to Nashville General Hospital patients is part of that commitment and is at the core of our mission."

Patients can enroll in the Continued Access Program at Nashville General Hospital by calling or visiting the Nashville General Hospital Social Services Department at 615.341.4125.

*--more--*

### **About the Dispensary of Hope**

Founded in 2003, the Dispensary of Hope is a not-for-profit social venture that provides sustainable access to medicine for underinsured communities through a growing network of dispensing sites across the country. The Dispensary has collected and distributed tens of millions of dollars worth of pharmaceuticals and filled more than 200,000 prescriptions for patients who otherwise couldn't afford them. For more information, visit [www.dispensaryofhope.org](http://www.dispensaryofhope.org).

### **About Nashville General Hospital at Meharry**

Founded in 1890, Nashville General Hospital at Meharry is a publicly supported, academically affiliated, community-based hospital. The hospital is committed to providing excellent healthcare regardless of age, race, creed, gender, sexual preference or ability to pay. With the alliance of Meharry Medical College and Vanderbilt University, the medical staff and employees provide comprehensive, compassionate, acute care services to those in need. For more information, visit [www.nashvillegeneral.org](http://www.nashvillegeneral.org).

###