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## New MRI suite is a tribute to generosity

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Fort Worth's generosity is as amazing as it is constant. After a long workday it's tough to attend midweek awards banquets, benefit concerts and charity fundraising receptions, but Fort Worth people do this in staggering numbers every week.

I'm always impressed by their patient support. So I shouldn't have been surprised last week when several hundred people showed up at Cook Children's Medical Center for another midweek celebration.

Never mind that the afternoon snow had turned to a cold rain and a raw north wind blew across the city, these people didn't want to miss the opening of a world-class intraoperative MRI suite.

They gathered in the medical center's atrium to nosh at several buffet tables and then moved to an auditorium for a ribbon-cutting that they watched via closed-circuit TV.

They came because they'd given their money and their time – and because they'd grown to love **Carol** and **Dan Roberts** of Aledo and their children, **Austin, J.D.** and **Maggie**.

The Robertses launched the "Refuse to Lose" campaign a few years ago after Austin was sent to California to have a recurring brain tumor removed.

After that the Roberts family was determined to bring that sort of technology to Fort Worth and asked everyone to help them raise \$4.5 million to buy the equipment.

They weren't disappointed, either. "This community makes dreams come true," Carol says.

**Hats in the ring:** One of the first people who pitched in to help was Dan Roberts' longtime friend, headliner **Garth Brooks**, who did a concert at Bass Hall. That show raised a whopping \$2 million. Not a bad beginning.

To show the medical center's gratitude, Cook Children's President **Nancy Cychol** had two images of Garth's big black Western hat inlaid in the floor of the new suite. One image of the hat is in the operating room and the other is in the diagnostic center.

Garth slipped into town a couple of weeks ago for a private tour, and when he saw the hats in the floor he was overcome.

"He had tears in his eyes," she told the crowd at last week's opening.

**Show and television:** It wasn't practical to let everyone who attended the opening reception tour the Mr. and Mrs. T.L. Dodson, Jr. Neurosciences Suite, but everyone got to see this new wonder by way of closed-circuit television.

The Refuse to Lose fund will stay in place, Carol says. "Anyone who feels led to give should know that their gift will go to enhance the intraoperative MRI suite."

**Fundraising 101:** Watch for this fundraising model to be used again – but with some additions. I think clubs will organize around a single need but when that goal is realized, the club will stay in place and focus on another single objective. Of course, people interested in supporting a goal won't have to be a club member to attend fundraising events.