

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Kali McKellips Successfully Receives Double Lung Transplant**

**Houston, TX** – A 9 month-old baby girl, born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, successfully received a double lung transplant at Texas Children's Hospital on Tuesday, April 17, 2007.

Kali Grace, born to Eric and Janice (Eason) McKellips, both of the Minneapolis area, underwent a risky but life saving surgery in Houston on Tuesday. Kali, who was born extremely premature at 24 weeks, weighing a mere 1 ½ pounds, has but recently called the Minneapolis Children's Hospital home since birth.

Severe chronic lung disease has caused the majority of Kali's health concerns and on March 10, 2007, Kali and her parents relocated and Kali was listed on the lung donor list at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, which boasts one of the largest pediatric lung transplantation programs in the country.

A compatible donor was found on the evening of April 16, 2007 and the next day Kali Grace underwent 12 hours of double lung transplant surgery. Currently, Kali's stats are maintaining and the family waits to see how her small body will react to the new set of lungs. Days of healing and concern are ahead but Kali and her parents remain in Texas, hundreds of miles away from family, friends and home.

Monetary donations for the family are accepted at any US Bank location under the Kali McKellips Fund. In hopes to help compensate for medical costs that aren't covered by insurance, several benefits including a bowling event, a golf tournament and a dinner and silent auction are being planned. Those interested in finding out more information about the fundraisers in honor of Kali are encouraged to contact Beth Davidge at 612-799-5208 or Stacie Randall at 715-475-9660.

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