

## **Children's Healthcare of Atlanta**

At the beginning of the year, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta announced the opening of The Zone, a new activity and recreational area to function as an alternative to typical hospital surroundings. Reece, Hoopes & Fincher was responsible for the renovation and re-design of the exterior elements. Our design efforts increased the amount of useable space for patients and guests and incorporated renovations of the existing basketball court and koi pond. The renovated koi pond features a waterfall that provides ambient background noise that helps to soften the sounds from the adjacent road. A lawn area and putting green were added to provide additional outdoor activities. We are pleased to have been a part of such a wonderful project.

The following is the press release obtained from the website of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

### **Garth Brooks, Troy Aikman & All-Star Cast Kick Off Child Life Zone Grand Opening**

#### **Therapeutic Play Area Lets Patients "Just be Kids"**

ATLANTA (Feb. 5) – An all-star cast of participants from the Garth Brooks Teammates for Kids Foundation, Troy Aikman Foundation, National Hockey League (NHL) and National Hockey League Player's Association (NHLPA) unveiled a 3,500-square-foot retreat for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta patients on Wed., Feb. 4, 2009.

The hockey-themed Child Life Zone, design donated by HKS Architects, Inc., is a state-of-the-art therapeutic play environment at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite that offers patients and their families an escape from the stress of illness and time in the hospital. The Zone includes a putting green, basketball court, koi pond, big screen theater, performance stage, reading nook, demonstration kitchen and a host of high-tech electronics. Children's is now home to the sixth Zone in the country, and it is the first Zone to incorporate an outdoor setting.

Garth Brooks, Troy Aikman, Keith Brooking, several Atlanta Thrashers and other key contributors to the development of the Zone saw the fruits of their work first-hand as they watched eager patients and child life specialists enjoy the space's amenities. Through education and play, child life specialists teach young patients about illness, treatment and surgery and provide support before, during and after procedures. The Zone is designed to support child life specialists in their efforts to help children understand and cope with the hospital experience.

"The visions of Children's and Teammates for Kids align closely with that of the Keith Brooking Children's Foundation: to improve the lives of children," said Brooking, whose foundation supports Georgia's foster children. "We are committed to making a positive impact on kids, and Children's plays a critical role in that process."

Speakers at the grand opening ceremony included Donna Hyland, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta President and CEO; Don Johnson, Garth Brooks Teammates for Kids Foundation President; Rex L. Carpenter, lead HKS, Inc. architect for the Zone; Keith Brooking, linebacker for the Atlanta Falcons; Troy Aikman; and Garth Brooks. The press conference took place in the Zone's theater and was followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The Zone at Children's at Scottish Rite was underwritten by the Garth Brooks Teammates for Kids Foundation, which raises funds from professional athletes, including several Atlanta athletes, and other donors to provide financial assistance to children's charities. With a goal of creating a network of 10 to 12 hospitals throughout the United States, the Child Life Zone Network is a priority project for Teammates for Kids.

For more information and to access downloadable photos of the facility, visit Children's online press room at [www.choa.org](http://www.choa.org).