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NEWS RELEASE

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RELEASE: September 22, 1998

Governor Whitman Tours Pediatric AIDS Unit at Mexico City Hospital; Announces Partnership Between Clinic and Bristol-Myers Squibb

New Jersey Gov. Christie Whitman today visited children at a pediatric AIDS clinic at a Mexico City hospital that has partnered with the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation to offer superior care and prevention services.

New Jersey-based Bristol-Myers, one of the world's leading AIDS research and pharmaceutical companies, formed a partnership with Hospital Infantil de Mexico to improve care and access to treatment for children with AIDS throughout Mexico.

"This education and treatment program will be the first ever partnership of its kind. I am proud that it is a New Jersey corporation taking this initiative," Gov. Whitman said.

"AIDS knows no age, gender, or national boundaries when it comes to infection. One of the most tragic aspects of AIDS is the regularity with which mothers transfer the virus to their infant children," Gov. Whitman said. "We must do everything we can to enhance and extend the lives of all those suffering from this disease - especially our children."

In addition to dedicating resources to improve treatment for children with AIDS, Bristol-Myers will encourage public awareness of pediatric AIDS both in Mexico and in New Jersey. The company will present an art exhibit entitled "Hope and Reality: Art by Children with AIDS" with art by the children treated in the Mexico clinic at the company's gallery at their headquarters in Lawrenceville.

Gov. Whitman, who is in the midst of a five-day trade mission to Mexico, said companies like Bristol-Meyers not only make New Jersey the pharmaceutical capital of the world but are also good neighbors. During her trip, Gov. Whitman and more than 50 corporate executives are hoping to expand relationships between New Jersey and Mexico.

Gov. Whitman said Bristol-Myers Squibb's example proves that New Jersey companies are making a commitment to Mexico that "We are here to stay."

"Let me be clear from the outset: New Jersey's interest in Mexico is long term. I don't have to tell you that Mexico continues to face its share of economic challenges - or that many of them are the result of extraneous forces at work in world markets," the Governor said during a speech to the American Chamber of Commerce later in the day.

"But there is no question in my mind - nor among the business people here with me - that despite these challenges, Mexico is headed in a very positive direction," she said.