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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LOCAL PSYCHIATRIST NAMED “CHAMPION OF HEALTH”  
Emily Mills Johnson, M.D.**

**February 26, 2004** - The HealthCare Foundation for Orange County, a local health philanthropy, has named Dr. Emily Mills Johnson as the 2003 “Champion of Health” for her efforts to improve the mental health of children and adolescents from low-income families in Orange County. The award provides a \$5,000 grant in Dr. Johnson’s honor to a local healthcare charity of her choice. She has selected Olive Crest Abused Children’s Foundation to receive this gift. Olive Crest is a non-profit agency which provides homes and services to abused, abandoned and neglected children from low-income families.

Dr. Johnson and three other nominees were recognized before their peers at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Thomas F. Riley Mental Health Community Service Award Luncheon, sponsored by The Mental Health Association of Orange County. Dr. Johnson’s work in improving the mental health and emotional stability of those most in need, as well as her active participation in the treatment team at Olive Crest, were among the reasons for her selection as this year’s recipient of this honor.

Other nominees included Dr. Luis Arevalo, Dr. Margaret M. Decker, and Dr. George Pascarzi. In presenting the award, Foundation Board Members Lilia Tanakeyowma and Quynh Kieu, M.D. noted that all candidates were “heroic health care providers” and that their actions have helped improved the lives of many low-income families in Orange County.

The HealthCare Foundation for Orange County is funded by gifts and bequests from individuals and by the net proceeds of the sale of United Western Medical Centers. Its mission is to promote health and support healthcare for the benefit of the Orange County community. The Foundation’s hope in sponsoring this award is to express appreciation for the dedication of the honored psychiatrists and psychologists and encourage others to take on the dual challenges of charity care and community-based prevention efforts in today’s challenging financial environment.

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