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James E. Shira, MD Named *Big Shot of the Year* Immunization Champion Slate to Accept Award at SOUP!

-- Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition Serves up SOUP! to Keep Kids Healthy --

Denver – **Dr. James E. Shira, M.D., FAAP, The Children's Hospital, has been named** <u>Big Shot of the Year</u> **by the Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition (CCIC).** Dr. Shira will accept the award at the nonprofit's annual SOUP! (Shots Offer Unrivaled Protection) event presented by Noble Energy, Inc. on Wednesday, Apr. 27.

For over a decade, CCIC has worked to increase childhood immunization through coalition building, provider education, community outreach and legislative advocacy. Now in its fourth year, CCIC serves up SOUP! as a way of thanking its partners and supporters in a fun and creative way. SOUP! will take place from 6-9 p.m. at Cable Center located on the University of Denver, 2000 Buchtel Blvd (80210).

SOUP! is a soup-tasting event designed to raise funds and awareness for childhood immunizations and honor some the state's most committed healthcare providers. In addition to socializing and celebrating, guests will sample a variety of soups from Denver's premier restaurants and vote for the *Best Soup* and *Most Creative Soup* of 2011.

"SOUP! is the perfect opportunity for professionals and health advocates to expand their connections," said M. Celeste Jackson, communications director, Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition. "The event is expected to draw over 200 of Colorado's pediatricians, physicians, nurses, educators, legislators, and public health experts to further CCIC's mission of protecting Colorado's children," she added.

An immunization champion, Dr. James E. Shira has distinguished himself in the area of pediatric medicine. Dr. Shira has dedicated more than three decades to providing excellent Family-Centered Care in service to Colorado's children and their families at The Children's Hospital, Denver. Currently, he serves as Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at The Children's Hospital, Denver and teaches and practices as a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Pediatric of University of Colorado School of Medicine.

Log on to www.childrensimmunization.org to learn more about Dr. Shira, SOUP! and everything the Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition and its members do to keep Colorado kids healthy.