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**FEDERATED AMBULATORY SURGERY ASSOCIATION'S SECOND ANNUAL
NATIONAL OPEN HOUSE DAY ATTRACTS INTEREST FROM CENTERS
ACROSS THE COUNTRY**

***Free Screenings and Tours all Part of Effort to Better Inform Health Care
Consumers of High-Quality, Cost-Effective Surgical Options***

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA (September 1, 2004) – The Federated Ambulatory Surgery Association, the nation's largest organization of ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs), today shipped off nearly 2,000 "Open House Toolkits" to ASCs across the country. Like an "open house in a box," the toolkits provide centers with all of the materials needed to organize and participate in National ASC Open House Day on October 20.

FASA announced National ASC Open House Day, "Here When You Need Us", to the industry in August and received interest in participating from centers across the nation.

ASCs are being encouraged to open their doors and offer facility tours and lectures to their communities in an effort to educate more health care consumers about high-quality and cost-effective options for outpatient surgery. By offering free health screenings and lectures, it is also an opportunity for ASCs to give back to the community. FASA also hopes the community event will create more interested stakeholders in these patient-friendly centers at a time when traditional surgical providers are erecting various competitive barriers in attempts to inhibit ASCs' ability to serve patients.

"Ambulatory Surgery Centers increase access, improve quality and decrease the cost of surgical services," said FASA's executive vice president Kathy Bryant. "This campaign comes as both federal and state policy makers across the country are considering proposals that will directly affect the future patient access to ASCs, including those on Medicare. Consumers need to know their options. We look forward to another successful National ASC Open House Day."

Over the next seven weeks, FASA will be working with centers to coordinate events and encourage as much community participation as possible. Last year, the Surgery Center of Arlington in Texas provided more than 250 free back-to-school sports physicals to students and educated another 300 people who accompanied the children on the center's services. Other ASCs interested in participating this year can contact the association at 703.836.8808.

The **Federated Ambulatory Surgery Association (FASA)**, the nation's largest association of ambulatory surgery centers, is a national, nonprofit association that represents the interests of those who operate and seek the services of ambulatory surgery centers throughout the nation. The organization represents 1,400 ASCs and thousands of professionals who provide care and services in such centers. Visit FASA online at www.fasa.org.

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