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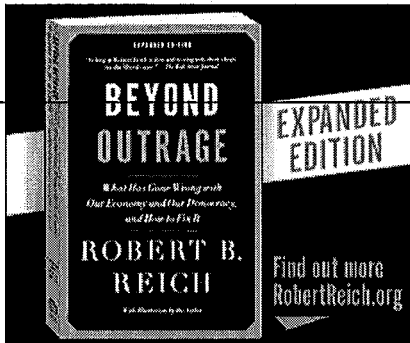
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Eli and Abby Manning donate funds for new birthing center at St. Vincent's Hospital

BY CHRISTINA BOYLE
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER
Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Eli Manning and his wife are bankrolling a new birthing center at St. Vincent's Hospital Manhattan - but don't worry, Jets fans are welcome, too.

The Giants quarterback and his wife, Abby, will announce plans today for a facility bearing their name - a state-of-the-art center focusing on natural childbirth and holistic care.

"We wanted to make it a special place to bring new life into the world," the 28-year-old Super Bowl hero told the Daily News.

"For Abby and I, it's about being part of that, to make sure all the parents have a comfortable experience."



Eli Manning at St. Vincent's Hospital. He and his wife, Abby, have... (DAILY NEWS STAFF)

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The Mannings - who don't have children yet - have a relationship with St. Vincent's and frequently visit patients to boost morale.

They donated an undisclosed sum to kick-start the \$10 million, five-year building project.

The couple, college sweethearts who exchanged vows in Mexico last year, will be guests of honor at the first ever St. Vincent's Baby Ball on June 18.

They won't need to hire a baby-sitter for the night.

"We're enjoying being married right now," Manning said. "There's no exact plan, but we do plan on starting a family in the future.

"I'm just excited about giving back to the community and doing my part," he added.

The project will begin with refurbishment of the hospital's existing maternity facility on Seventh Ave.

The Eli and Abby Manning Birthing Center will eventually move to a separate space connected to the new St. Vincent's under construction across the street.

The hospital, which has one of the lowest C-section rates in the city, plans to offer acupuncture and other holistic services to moms-to-be.

There will be upgrades to patient rooms and waiting areas and postpartum suites designed by Thom Filicia of "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy."

"We are doing things the right way," said Dr. George Mussalli, chairman of obstetrics and gynecology. "It's something that New York City women have really been crying for."

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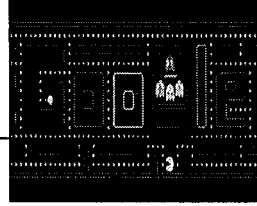
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Eli Manning passes up big money from ailing St. Vincent's

By CARL CAMPANILE
Last Updated: 8:51 PM, February 22, 2010
Posted: 3:45 AM, February 22, 2010

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EXCLUSIVE

He's St. Eli to St. Vincent's.

Giants quarterback Eli Manning -- who has already raked in hundreds of

thousands of dollars doing publicity for the Greenwich Village hospital -- has agreed to forgo future paychecks because of its fiscal straits, his spokesman said yesterday.

"When Eli learned that the hospital was in financial difficulties, he released them from the contract . . . from the monetary agreement," said the spokesman for sports-marketing firm IMG.

The cash-strapped Catholic hospital -- which has already shelled out at least \$600,000 to the superstar athlete since 2006 -- said in a statement:



WILLIAM FARRINGTON

WING MAN: Eli and Abby Manning unveil the wing named for them last year at St. Vincent's Hospital (right).

"Due to our current financial situation, the hospital will be unable to continue this partnership and has no intention of making payments going forward."

The hospital -- saddled with \$700 million in debt -- recently laid off hundreds of workers and dramatically slashed the salaries of other staffers in order to keep its doors open.

Over the summer, St. Vincent's inked a new \$1 million agreement with Manning as part of a five-year promotional deal.

It was the continuation of its partnership with Manning, who had already netted about \$500,000 from the hospital since November 2006 -- when St. Vincent's was still officially bankrupt.

As part of the renewed, unusual financial arrangement, St. Vincent's was to pay Manning and his Ohio-based merchandising company another \$250,000 a year from 2009 through 2014. Manning then would donate \$50,000 back to the hospital -- reducing his net annual paycheck to \$200,000.

St. Vincent's had widely publicized the partnership in May -- but in a far different light.

A glowing press release said only that Manning and his wife, Abby, would be helping to raise funds for a revamped birthing center and that it would be renamed "the Eli & Abby Manning Birthing Center."

As part of the deal, St. Vincent's got exclusive rights to tout Manning in media ads.

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Manning was required to make six appearances a year on behalf of the hospital, including fund-raising galas, and provide signed memorabilia.

St. Vincent's also agreed to foot the bill for the Mannings and their agent to enjoy first-class airfare, lodging, ground transportation and meals during their personal appearances.

But at a St. Vincent's board meeting two months later, one member was already warning that the Manning pact was a "a bad deal at a bad time" that could lead to "bad publicity."

"Many people [would have been] surprised by the arrangement," said Bennett Weiner, who heads the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance.

It is believed that Manning had already received another \$100,000 from St. Vincent's -- which is run by the Sisters of Charity -- under the new deal.

Manning will continue to help raise funds for the birthing center without receiving

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compensation, his rep said.

Manning is one of the NFL's top-paid players, making more than \$15 million a year, and his six-year Giants contract comes to \$97 million. His earnings top \$20 million a year, when factoring in endorsements.

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