



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Diabetes: The Silent Killer That Strikes Without Warning**

### **Urban Health Plan Sponsors Diabetes Expo To Educate South Bronx Residents About This Deadly Disease**

Bronx, New York – Despite advances in research, care and self-management, diabetes has reached an epidemic status and remains a leading cause of hospitalization, blindness, amputations and death. Almost 1/3 of the 700,000 New Yorkers who have diabetes are not aware they have it, according to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDOHMH).

- The South Bronx has one of New York City's highest rates of adult diabetes, 13.7%, compared with 9.2% citywide, according to the NYCDOHMH.
- New Yorkers with diabetes are now hospitalized at a rate nearly 80% higher than the national rate.
- Nationwide, 23.6 million children and adults in the United States—7.8% of the population—have diabetes.

To educate community residents about this growing epidemic, Urban Health Plan's Annual Diabetes Expo offers free glucose screenings, exercise and nutrition information, cooking demonstrations and healthy samplings. Vendor presentations include topics on proper footwear for diabetics, glucometers and insulin pumps. The event sponsors include **Sanofi Aventis, Phoenix Medical Supply, Roche Pharmaceuticals, Hebrew Hospital Home, Neighborhood/NY Diabetic Supply, Sol's Pharmacy, Church Alive, Merck and Co., Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Abbott Diabetes Care**, which will provide product and glucometers for the raffle.

**WHAT: Diabetes Expo**

**WHO: Urban Health Plan**

**WHERE: Field of Dreams Park, 167<sup>th</sup> Street and Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY**

**WHEN: Saturday, August 14, 2010, from 11 am to 4 pm**

#### **About Urban Health Plan:**

Urban Health Plan (UHP) is a network of federally qualified community health centers based in the South Bronx and Queens. Its mission is to improve the health status of underserved communities. In 2009, UHP served over 37,000 patients through 200,000 patient visits at four clinic sites, five school-based clinics, and four off-sites. It has served the Hunts Point, Mott Haven and other surrounding communities of the Bronx since 1974.

As a federally qualified health center, UHP plays a vital role in providing health services to poor and medically underserved populations who often have difficulty accessing quality health care.



Over the years, UHP has developed many health improvement initiatives including a nationally acclaimed asthma management program, programs in childhood obesity prevention, nutrition, HIV/AIDS care, and mental health services. UHP is one of the first community health centers in New York that fully uses electronic medical records and is currently using iris recognition technology to identify patients.

In 2009 UHP was named one of the top twenty community health centers in the country; received the Davies Award for Excellence from the Health Information Management Systems Society for its excellence in the use of electronic health records and was awarded Level 3 recognition as a Physician Practice Connections – Patient-Centered Medical Home (PPC-PCMH) from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). Level 3 recognition is the highest awarded by the NCQA.

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