



Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SILENT KILLER “EXPO”SED IN THE SOUTH BRONX

Urban Health Plan, Inc. presents its third annual Diabetes Expo at C.S. 134 in the South Bronx

The statistics are staggering. The American Diabetes Association estimates that there are 20.8 million people in the United States, or 7% of the population, who have diabetes. While an estimated 14.6 million have been diagnosed with diabetes, unfortunately, 6.2 million people (or nearly one-third) are unaware that they have the disease. Although it is believed that diabetes is under-reported as a condition leading to or causing death, each year, more than 200,000 deaths are reported as being caused by diabetes or its complications. Morbidity and mortality due to diabetes has made this disease a significant public health problem and led the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to declare the disease an epidemic in the United States.

Diabetes is the sixth leading cause of death among Americans and the fifth leading cause of death in New York City. Approximately 18 percent of all people living in the South Bronx are diabetic. The incidence of serious chronic disease in the South Bronx is the highest in New York City. In Hunts Point and Mott Haven, two South Bronx neighborhoods within Urban Health Plan’s service area, the incidence of diabetes has doubled in the past decade and its mortality rate is two times higher than that of the rest of the city. Given the severity of the problem and the disproportionately high incidence rates of diabetes prevalent in residents of the South Bronx, Urban Health Plan, Inc. will hold its third annual Diabetes Expo; an open forum to discuss effective ways to cope with diabetes and its complications.

What: Third Annual Diabetes Expo at C.S. 134

When: Thursday, March 23 at 10:00 a.m.

Where: CS 134

1330 Bristow Street, Bronx, NY

Who: Staff, providers from Urban Health Plan, South Bronx community residents, Assemblyman, Michael Benjamin and local elected officials, exhibitors, and community leaders

Urban Health Plan, Inc. (UHP) is a nonprofit 501(c) 3 federally qualified community health center licensed by New York State as an Article 28 Diagnostic and Treatment Center and certified by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). UHP has more than 30 years experience delivering quality health care services to the residents of the South Bronx communities of Hunts Point, Morrisania and Mott Haven. In 2005, UHP delivered care to over 26,000 patients who accounted for 143,000 visits.