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First Ladies of Los Angeles Gear Up for Historical City-Wide Health Day,
*Local Churches to Open Their Doors on May 20th for Large-scale Event in
African-American Communities Aimed at Saving Lives*

Los Angeles - For the first time ever in Los Angeles history, 30 churches of various denominations and sizes will open their doors to their congregations as well as community residents for free health screenings. The screenings and health specific seminars will take place on Sunday, May 20th from 8 am until 2 pm.

On-site screenings will include HIV/AIDS, Blood Pressure, Hepatitis C, Depressions, Glucose, Cholesterol and information on Alzheimer's diseases, CPR techniques and Free Mammogram Screenings (at select sites)..

"With African Americans disproportionately dying of debilitating diseases because they lack life-saving information, including the knowledge of their own status, this is truly the most meaningful and rewarding program our firm has developed," said Tracey Alston, President of Danielle Ashley Group (DAG). As the African American agency for Walgreens, DAG developed the concept of the First Ladies Health Initiative, a consortium of pastors' wives and female ministers that are united for healthier communities.

"It is really a national sorority of first ladies," says Tracey Alston, who goes on to state, "As representatives of the Walgreens Company, we empower the First Ladies with the necessary tools and resources of the healthcare profession to create this substantive program that they can continue to build on year after year. This is the beginning of an annual event, and as it continues to grow, the passion and commitment becomes contagious. I am continually amazed by the number of health providers and workers that volunteer to be a part of the program." Those organizations and individuals include Walgreens Pharmacists, HealthCare Partners, American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, City of Hope,, Black AIDS Institute, the Los Angeles Fire Department, the Council of Black Nurses and more, who will be performing the screenings and conducting the seminars. Screening times are based on church schedules and may be held prior to or following church services.

John Gremer, Walgreens Director of Community Affairs, and the executives of Walgreens are very committed to this self-sustaining program. In fact John Gremer saw the vision and immediately agreed to support the initiative. "We knew this was a big idea," said Gremer, "needless to say, we are all very pleased with the magnitude of this program's growth." The program kicked off in Chicago, in 2008 and it continues to expand to other cities. Besides recently establishing a presence in Los Angeles, plans are also underway for an Atlanta Initiative by the end of 2012, with a goal of having First Ladies Health Initiatives in the top 10 cities within five years. "It has been a pleasure to work with the First Ladies and to encourage their members and others to get screened for these various illnesses, many of which are preventable," states Gremer. "Not only are the Health Day participants able to take advantage of free screenings, but the medical experts are also generous enough to provide immediate information on treatments and overall healthy living."

Founding board members of the Los Angeles 2012 initiative are Mrs. Denise Hunter of First AME Church, Mrs. Evelyn Perkins of True Friendship MBC, Dr. Betty Price of Crenshaw Christian Center and Mrs. Debra Williams of McCoy Baptist Church. Debra Williams and Evelyn Perkins also serve as the 2012 co-chairpersons for the L.A. First Ladies Initiative.

For more information on the health day, including a list of churches, go to www.FirstLadiesHealth.com.

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Participating Churches:

Abundant Grace Bible Church	3133 W. 131st. Street Hawthorne CA 90250
Amen LA	5904 S. Broadway Los Angeles CA 90003
Bethany Baptist of West LA	4115 W. MLK Blvd. Los Angeles CA 90008
Calvary Baptist Church	1517 E. Alondra Blvd. Compton CA 90221
Central Baptist Church	1641 E. Carson Street Carson CA 90745
Crenshaw Christian Center	7901 S. Vermont Avenue Los Angeles CA 90056
First AME Church	2270 S. Harvard Blvd Los Angeles CA 90018
Kimberly Burgess, First Antioch MBC	8725 S. Central Avenue Los Angeles CA 90003
Mabel E. Griffin, Good Shepherd MBC	510 W. 3rd Street Los Angeles CA 90037
Pamela Cressel, Great Mt. Sinai MBC	12317 S. Wilmington Avenue Compton CA 90222
Higher Ground Church	4845 Cheyenne Way Chino CA 91710
Judson Baptist Church	451 E. 223 rd Street Carson, CA 90745
Liberty Baptist Church	1500 W. 51 st Place Los Angeles CA 90062
Los Angeles Community Church	10611 S. Hoover St. Los Angeles CA 90044
McCoy Baptist Church	802 E. 46th Street Los Angeles CA 90011
Trotter Morning Star B.C. of Pasadena	1416 Mentor Street Pasadena CA 91104
New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church	402 E. El Segundo Blvd. Los Angeles CA 90061
Park Windsor Baptist Church	1842 W. 108th Street Los Angeles CA 90047
Redeemer MBC	1631 W. Adams Blvd. Los Angeles CA 90007
Shield of Faith Christian Center-Pomona	1750 W. Holt Ave. Pomona CA 91768
St. James AME	655 W. 70th Street Los Angeles CA 90044
St. Thomas MBC	10963 S. Western Ave. Los Angeles CA 90047
The Experience Christian Ministries	846 E. El Segundo Blvd Los Angeles CA 90059
True Friendship MBC	7901 S. Van Ness Avenue Inglewood CA 90305
True Gospel MBC	7723 S. Hoover Street Los Angeles CA 90044
Ward AME Church	1177 W. 25th Street Los Angeles CA 90007
Zion Hill Baptist Church	7860 10 th Avenue Los Angeles CA 90043

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