



**For more immediate release**

September 21, 2011

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**Nearly 35 Pastors' Wives to Mobilize on Sunday to Host Free Screenings for  
Once Taboo HIV/AIDS, Other Illnesses  
That Disproportionately Affect African Americans**

***First Lady Jamell Meeks Chairs One-of-a-Kind Health Initiative***

**Chicago** – Dozens of churches representing individual congregations of up to 20,000 members in Chicago and nearby suburbs will simultaneously host health screenings on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, in an effort to tip the scales in favor of African Americans living healthier lives.

The First Ladies Health Day, named for the compassionate group of ambassadors who are also the wives of Chicago ministers, will offer a convenient opportunity for community members to get free, on-site screenings for various illnesses that are disproportionately high in African American communities.

Screenings will include HIV/AIDS, blood pressure, hepatitis C, depression, glucose, cholesterol and information on migraines and other illnesses. Health experts from Walgreens Pharmacies, the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Chicago Department of Public Health, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, the Black Nurses Association and the American Diabetes Association will perform the tests.

In addition, Chicago Firefighters will be on-hand at several churches to demonstrate CPR (please see church list attached).

**Jamell Meeks**, the wife of the Rev. and State Sen. **James T. Meeks** of Salem Baptist Church, serves as chairwoman for the campaign.

Walgreens Director of Community Affairs John Gremer initiated the program in 2008 with the First Ladies Luncheon, during which nearly 200 ministers' wives met with medical experts to discuss the high rate of HIV/AIDS among African Americans. The First Ladies Campaign expanded in 2010 to include the health day and several additional illnesses.

Gremer says the campaign has been an important and inspiring addition to his department from the beginning.

“It’s been my pleasure to work with the churches 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.”

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Gremer recently approved the First Ladies program extending to Los Angeles starting with the luncheon in October.

The wife of NBA great Earvin “Magic” Johnson, Cookie Johnson, spoke this summer at the 2011 Chicago luncheon about her life 20 years after her husband’s announcement that he had tested positive for HIV. She also will attend the Los Angeles luncheon as a keynote speaker.

Please visit [www.firstladieshealth.com](http://www.firstladieshealth.com) for more information on the First Ladies Health Day.

### **About Walgreens**

Walgreens ([www.walgreens.com](http://www.walgreens.com)) is the nation’s largest drugstore chain with fiscal 2011 sales of \$72 billion. The company operates 7,760 drugstores in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Each day, Walgreens provides nearly 6 million customers the most convenient, multichannel access to consumer goods and services and trusted, cost-effective pharmacy, health and wellness services and advice in communities across America. Walgreens scope of pharmacy services include retail, specialty, infusion, medical facility and mail service, along with respiratory services. These services improve health outcomes and lower costs for payers including employers, managed care organizations, health systems, pharmacy benefit managers and the public sector. Take Care Health Systems is a Walgreens subsidiary that is the largest and most comprehensive manager of worksite health and wellness centers and in-store convenient care clinics, with more than 700 locations throughout the country.

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