



First Ladies Health Initiative

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WALGREENS' FIRST LADIES HEALTH PROGRAM JOINS FORCES WITH AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION TO 'EMPOWER' LA COMMUNITIES

Walgreens' Fourth Annual First Ladies Health Day to Expand Legacy of Saving Lives

LOS ANGELES (March 17, 2015) – The American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association have agreed to a three-year commitment to the Walgreens First Ladies Health Initiative to assist in improving the cardiovascular health of African Americans by employing a sophisticated outreach system that monitors the health of high-risk individuals through their churches.

The AHA/ASA EmPowered to Serve (ETS) Initiative will enable one or more individuals at a select church to serve as the organizations' primary contact, assess the cardiovascular health of community members, develop an action plan for health improvement, and lead health-centric activities at the church to assist residents in reaching their health goals.

The announcement comes leading up to the Fourth Annual Walgreens First Ladies Health Day, which is scheduled to take place Sunday, April 12, in nearly 30 Los Angeles-area churches. The Health Day is aptly named for the First Ladies, or pastors' wives, who simultaneously open their church doors to provide **FREE** tests for a number of chronic illnesses that plague African American and Hispanic communities.

Although the AHA has been instrumental in providing health tests and information on heart disease during previous First Ladies Health Days, the new agreement, which begins on the upcoming Health Day, will provide faith-based programming that will remain active throughout the year.

"Heart disease is the No. 1 killer among African Americans and one of the most preventable of all chronic illnesses. This partnership with the AHA and ASA will allow the First Ladies program to continue its outreach to monitor the health of congregants of participating churches in the hopes that one day we will see a major shift in these regrettable findings," stated John Gremer, Walgreen's director of community affairs and driving force behind the multi-city First Ladies Health program for the past several years.

Although each church will offer various medical tests during next month's First Ladies Health Day based on the needs of their community members and availability of medical experts, targeted diseases also will include diabetes, HIV/AIDS, breast cancer, and more. A Walgreens pharmacist will be available at each church to provide blood pressure exams and information on medication.

Medical experts from the American Red Cross, American Cancer Society, City of Hope, Alta Med, Council of Black Nurses, Charles Drew University, Los Angeles County Department of Health and other organizations will also volunteer their time to provide the FREE tests during the Health Day, in addition to representatives from AHA and ASA. Plus, Susan G. Komen will offer vouchers for free mammograms at each church, and representatives from the Alzheimer's Association will be on site at various locations with information on mental illness.

A complete list of churches participating in the Health Day on April 12 is printed below.

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About the First Ladies Health Initiative

The Walgreens-sponsored First Ladies Health Initiative is a two-prong, life-saving program that begins with a recruitment luncheon, often attended by as many as 150 pastors' wives, and culminates six months later with the Health Day. Led locally by **Chairwoman First Lady Dr. Betty Price** of Crenshaw Christian Center and **Co-Chairwoman First Lady Evelyn Perkins** of True Friendship Baptist Church, the initiative originated in Chicago in 2008, expanded to Los Angeles in 2010, and to Gary, Indiana in 2014. The First Ladies Health Day premieres in Orange County on April 26, 2015, and in Cincinnati, Ohio in October. The program was conceptualized based on the high rate of HIV/AIDS in African American communities. Organizers quickly realized that there were a number of illnesses that disproportionately affected Blacks, including diabetes, hypertension, breast cancer, Hepatitis C and Alzheimer's. More than 200,000 individuals have received FREE health tests as participants in the program. The First Ladies Health Initiative is a recipient of the 2014 Public Relations Society of America's Silver Anvil Award of Excellence.

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2015 Participating Churches:

88th Street Temple COGIC	8825 S. Vermont, Los Angeles, CA 90044
Antioch Church of Long Beach	1535 Gundry Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90813
Central Baptist Church	1641 E. Carson Street, Carson, CA 90745
City of Refuge	14527 San Pedro Street, Gardena, CA 90248
City on the Hill Church	16425 Ishida Avenue, Gardena, CA 90248
Crenshaw Christian Center	7901 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90056
Deliverance Tabernacle	(Clustering with Morning Star of Pasadena)
Emmanuel Bible Church	7502 S. San Pedro, Los Angeles, CA 90003
Faithful Service MBC	1416 W. 37 th Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90018
First AME	2270 S. Harvard Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90018
Founders Center for Spiritual Living	3281 W. 6 th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90020
Good Shepherd MBC	510 W. 53rd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90037
Greater Mt. Sinai MBC	12317 S. Wilmington Avenue, Compton, CA 90222
Live Oak MBC	1359 W. 84 th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90044
Love Lifted Me MBC	6501 Crenshaw Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90043
Maranatha Community Church	1123 E. Redondo Boulevard, Inglewood, CA 90302
Metropolitan Baptist - Altadena	2283 Fair Oaks Avenue, Altadena, CA 90302
Metropolitan Baptist – Los Angeles	4200 S. Hooper Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90011
Morning Star B.C. of Pasadena	980 Rio Grande, Pasadena, CA 91104
New Guiding Light MBC	(Clustering with Morning Star of Pasadena)
New Mt. Pleasant MBC	434 S. Grevillea Avenue, Inglewood, CA 90301
Park Windsor Baptist Church	1842 W. 108th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90047
Prevailing in Christ Ministries	1609 E. Del Amo Boulevard, Carson, CA 90746
Saint Paul's Baptist Church	11137 Herrick Avenue, Pacoima, CA 91331
Southern Missionary Baptist Church	4678 W. Adams Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90016
The Experience	1226 W. Compton, Compton, CA 90220
True Friendship MBC	7901 S. Van Ness Avenue, Inglewood, CA 90305
Unity Christian Fellowship	16133 S. Atlantic Avenue, Compton, CA
Weller Street MBC	129 S. Gless Street, Los Angeles, CA 90033
World Changers International	11022 Aviation Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90045