



January 20, 2012

An Open Letter to Express Scripts

To whom it may concern:

African American churches have long been the centers of communities, providing spiritual, political and organizational leadership. As today's congregations look more toward the church for guidance in every aspect of their lives, the pastor's wife has transcended into a more powerful woman of influence. Recognizing the role of the first ladies, Walgreens, as a leader among retailers in giving back to the community, has stepped forward to provide the support and resources to assist in the creation of **The First Ladies Health Initiative**.

Being concerned about community health is nothing new to Walgreens. In fact, the pharmacist in our communities is revered as the first healthcare professional that residents seek out for answers. With more stores throughout the nation open 24 hours a day, the Walgreens pharmacist often takes the burden of unnecessary ER visits from local hospitals and trauma centers; and is proactive in alerting customers to possible conflicts in prescribed medications. No other retail store has helped to stabilize communities, provide quality jobs to community residents, and attract other retailers and companies into communities like Walgreens. In addition to its quality health products and pharmaceutical services, Walgreens also services the community by supporting existing programs and creating new ones to meet urgent health needs. Over a decade ago, one of the most urgent health needs in the community was, and still is, the devastating spread of HIV/AIDS among minorities. Walgreens initiated an HIV/AIDS Task Force which culminated in the formation of the Walgreens First Ladies Health Day.

The pilot program began in June 2008 in Chicago, with over 150 First Ladies, collectively representing over 150,000 persons from the state of Illinois. Many represented mega-churches with memberships of 10,000 or more. The result of that luncheon meeting was the launching of an historic, city-wide health day to provide information and screenings for Diabetes, Hypertension, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, Mental Illness, Alzheimer's and other diseases, to thousands of Chicagoland residents. In 2011, we launched the First Ladies Health Initiative in Los Angeles, California. We will continue to expand our program to reach other major urban cities.

As Chairperson of the Walgreens First Ladies Health Day Initiative, I have worked side-by-side with Walgreens pharmacists and community representatives and I marvel at their tireless commitment to making a difference for folks who otherwise can't make a difference for themselves. I know the communities rely heavily on Walgreen's pharmacy services, and to deprive the community of this critically needed service would be a travesty.

Sincerely,

Jamell Meeks
Chairperson, First Ladies Health Initiative



First Ladies Health Initiative

First Ladies Health Initiative Members - Chicago

Rosemary Abercrombie	Truth & Deliverance International Ministries	Chicago, IL
Gloria Alford	Progressive Life Giving Word Cathedral	Hillside, IL
Wylonn Allen	Faith Temple	Chicago, IL
Delores Baldwin	Triedstone Full Gospel	Chicago, IL
Lisa Ballard	Sunrise Full Gospel Baptist Church	Chicago, IL
Pastor Biekman	Southlawn United Methodist Church	Chicago, IL
Margaret Boyd	First Unity MBC	Chicago, IL
Karen Brewer	Atonement Covenant Church	Chicago, IL
Michea'l Brooks	Canaan M.B.C.	Chicago, IL
Etta Buchanan	Christ Outreach Ministries COGIC	Chicago, IL
Kisia Coleman	Kingdom Church International	Park Forest, IL
Marie Coleman	City of Refuge	Lockport, IL
Kirsten Dates	Progressive Baptist Church	Chicago, IL
Susan Davenport-Smith	Apostolic Faith Church	Chicago, IL
Maria Estes	Compassion Word Ministry	Chicago, IL
Tonya Evans	Greater Mt. Eagle	Chicago, IL
Annie Gibson	Launch Out Into The Deep CC	Chicago, IL
Debra Gray	Family Altar Church	Chicago, IL
Monique Gunn	Heritage International Christian Church	Chicago, IL
Tiffany Handy	Build Up COGIC	Dolton, IL
Ladonna Harris	Beautiful Zion M.B.C.	Chicago, IL
Julia Holmes	Joyful Harvest Ministries	Chicago, IL
Linda Jenkins	Greater Salem Baptist Church	Chicago, IL
Tara Jenkins	Fellowship	Chicago, IL
Latonia Lambert	Chicago Embassy Church	Chicago, IL
Janice Lewis	New Mt. Olive Baptist Church	Chicago, IL
Carol J. Lott	Power & Faith Ministries	Chicago, IL
Debra McCarthy	Gethsemane C.O.G.I.C.	Chicago, IL
Vivre McClellan	Emmanuel Baptist Church	Chicago, IL
Jamell Meeks	Salem Baptist Church of Chicago	Chicago, IL
Corlis S. Moody	Quinn Chapel AME Church	Chicago, IL
Melissa Peel	The Greater Love Church of God in Christ	Chicago, IL
Lisa Porter	St. Thomas Episcopal	Chicago, IL
Barbara Ragland	Third Baptist Church of Chicago	Chicago, IL
Marilyn Ross-Wiley	Rock of Ages	Maywood, IL
Brenda Singleton	Victory Apostolic Church	Matteson, IL
Karen Smith	Holy Jerusalem M.B.C.	Ford Heights, IL
Gail Spiller	Greater Galilee	Chicago, IL
Stephanie Walker	First Church of Deliverance	Chicago, IL
Phyllis Watkins	Bethlehem Star MB Church	Chicago, IL
Pamela White	Victory Christian International Ministries	Chicago, IL
Karen Whitehead	Mt. Carmel	Chicago, IL
Dorothy Williams	St. Anselm	Chicago, IL
Dorothy J. Williams	Bray Temple C.M.E.	Chicago, IL
Barbara Wilson	Full Gospel Christian Assemblies Int'l	Hazel Crest, IL
Beverly Wilson	Valley Kingdom Ministries International	Matteson, IL
Robyn Wilson	Christ Way Baptist Church	Chicago, IL

First Ladies Health Initiative

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First Ladies Health Initiative

First Ladies Health Initiative Members – Los Angeles

Angel Price	Crenshaw Christian Center	Los Angeles, CA
Henryetta Benton	Upper Room Fellowship MBC	Los Angeles, CA
Irene Bryant	First Zion Travelers MBC	Los Angeles, CA
Kimberly Burgess	First Antioch Missionary Baptist Church	Los Angeles, CA
Carolyn Faulkner	Evening Star MBC	Los Angeles, CA
Myesha Chaney	Antioch Church of Long Beach	Los Angeles, CA
Beverly A. Crawford	Bible Enrichment Fellowship Int'l Church	Inglewood, CA
Shalonda Crawford	The Experience Christian Ministries	Gardena, CA
Pamela Cressel	Great Mt. Sinai MB Church	Compton, CA
Deborah Ellis	True Gospel MBC	Los Angeles, CA
Antoinette Garrett	Love of God MBC	Los Angeles, CA
Mabel E. Griffin	Good Shepherd M. Baptist Church	Los Angeles, CA
Luetricia Jefferson	Del Aire Baptist Church	Hawthorne, CA
Kathye Jenkins	Abundant Grace Bible Church	Gardena, CA
DiAnn L. Johnson	AMEN	Los Angeles, CA
Alison Jones	Los Angeles Community Church	Los Angeles, CA
Pamela Jones	Messiah Missionary BC	Los Angeles, CA
Joyce Jones	St. Reed Missionary Baptist Church	Los Angeles, CA
Charlee Kesssee	Bethany Baptist of West LA	Los Angeles, CA
Kindall Lewis	Christian Fellowship MBC	Los Angeles, CA
Sandra Liddell	Temple of Believers Community Church	Los Angeles, CA
Tanja Lister	Friendlywill MBC	Los Angeles, CA
Marty Alexander	Shield of Faith Christian Center of Pomona	Pomona, CA
S. Dianna Masters	Wesley United Methodist Church	Los Angeles, CA
Mitchelene Hunter	Greater Morning Star Baptist Church	Santa Monica, CA
Charmezetta Nixon	Ward African Methodist Episcopal Church	Los Angeles, CA
Jeraldine Patterson	Crusade Christian Center	Los Angeles, CA
Evelyn Perkins	True Friendship MBC	Inglewood, CA
Claudia Powers	Adoram Missionary Baptist	Los Angeles, CA
Carol Redding	St. James AME Church	Los Angeles, CA
Justice Rev. Cecelia	Bryant Temple AME Church	Los Angeles, CA
Salima P. Ridgeway	Brown AME	Pasadena, CA
Alyce Shigg	Love Lifted Me MBC	Los Angeles, CA
Margaret L. Smith	Calvary Baptist Church	Compton, CA
Vanessa Smith	Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier	Whittier, CA
Michelle Starr-Grover	Central Baptist Church	Carson, CA
Regina Taylor	Park Windsor Baptist Church	Los Angeles, CA
Ranza Garr Trotter	Morning Star B.C. of Pasadena	Pasadena, CA
Paula Warthen	Trinity Baptist Church	Los Angeles, CA
Tanya Washington	Promised Land Church of God in Christ	Inglewood, CA
Maria Williams	Christ Full Gospel MBC	Los Angeles, CA
Sandra Williams	Evening Star MBC	Los Angeles, CA
Yvonne Williams	New Prospect Baptist Church	Los Angeles, CA
Yvette Williams	Brookins Community AME	Los Angeles, CA
Earleatha "Cookie" Johnson	Secretary of the Board of Directors for the Magic Johnson Foundation	Los Angeles, CA

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