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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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YOUTH HEALTH FAIR TO PROVIDE FREE SCHOOL-REQUIRED PHYSICAL EXAMS AND IMMUNIZATIONS TO TRENTON SCHOOL CHILDREN

TRENTON, NJ, August 5, 2011 -

The Tremendously Trenton Coalition, in partnership with the Trenton Board of Education, St. Francis Medical Center, and the Henry J. Austin Health Center, will be offering a Youth Health Fair on Saturday, August 20, from 9 am to 2 pm at the St. Francis Medical Center School of Nursing (Crean Hall) on St. Francis Avenue, behind the hospital's main building.

The fair will provide Trenton families with school-age children who are uninsured or covered under Medicaid, and who are new to the district, or entering pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten this year, the opportunity to get the physical exam required to enroll in school. Children who have had a physical exam performed in the prior 12 months and can present written documentation to their school will be exempt from this requirement. Required immunizations will also be provided totally free of charge. This event has been made possible thanks to generous grants from the Latino Health Institute of the New Jersey Latino Leadership Alliance Foundation, and the Hispanic American Medical Association of Central New Jersey. No co-pay or dispensing fee will be collected. To receive services the child's parent or guardian must be present at the fair, and each child's vaccination card will be required. The fair seeks to reduce the hundreds of Trenton students who are excluded from school every year for not being in compliance with public health requirements, specifically those who are on Medicaid or NJ FamilyCare, or lack any health insurance.

This community event gathers representatives from the major health care and social service providers in the Trenton area to impart information and perform health screenings for Trenton residents (blood pressure, glucose, body mass index, vision exams, and dental check-ups). Bilingual physicians, members of the Hispanic American Medical Association, will be available for individual consultations. Other providers participating this year include: Capital Health, Horizon NJ Health, NJ FamilyCare, Isles, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN), and the Mercer Street Friends Food Bank.

Preventive health education is a major focus of this event. There will be workshops on nutrition, the importance of finding a “medical home”, safety in the home, and the managements of asthma. Complimentary snacks and beverages will be available throughout the event. Free parking is available at the hospital’s Chambers Street garage.

Fliers of the event can be downloaded from the website of the Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund, which spearheads the Tremendously Trenton Coalition (www.LALDEF.org).

The Tremendously Trenton Coalition traditional Fall Community Health Fair has been set for October 15, also at St. Francis Medical Center’s Crean Hall. Free flu vaccines will be offered to adults and children at this event.

The Tremendously Trenton Coalition includes the following Trenton civic and faith-based organizations: Assembly of God Pentecostal Church, Christ Episcopal Church, Colombian Association of Mercer County, Costa Rican Association of Mercer County, Dominican Association of Mercer County, Ecuadorian Association of Mercer County, Guatemalan Association of Mercer County, Liberian Community Association, Latino Merchants Association, Living Hope Church, St. Joseph’s RC Church, Our Lady of Angels Parish, Trenton Police Department, Trenton Board of Education, Trenton Department of Health, Westminster Presbyterian Church.