

## Dillard University Host Largest Free Health Fair In New Orleans

Written by Janella Newsome

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(New Orleans) – The Dillard University Community Development Corporation will host one of the largest free health fairs that New Orleans has seen on Saturday, October 18, 2008 from 10 am to 3 pm on campus, 2601 Gentilly Boulevard in New Orleans. Medical experts will offer free medical screenings – valued at more than \$1, 500 – to each attendee. Among the free screenings will be blood pressure, diabetes testing, eye exams, glucose and cholesterol.

“This is exactly the reason that Dillard has created our Community Development Corporation,” said university president Marvalene Hughes. “We are part of the community and we want to use our unique resources to help rebuild the community. An important facet of that rebuilding is health services. We know that many in our region have not had a personal physician since Hurricane Katrina. This is a chance for every family to get the health screenings and consultation that we all need at no cost.”

Co-sponsors of the Dillard CDC event include Blue Cross/Blue Shield, WBOK radio, EXCELth Inc. Primary Care Network, the New Orleans Fire Department, the Louisiana Public Health Institute and the U.S. Army. There will also be free food and soft drinks, as well as entertainment and give-aways. A special guest will be WDSU-TV Medical Editor Dr. Corey Hebert.

“We know there will be a large attendance so we have arranged many duplicate venues so the lines won’t be long,” said Nick Harris, Dillard University Vice President and Executive Director of the CDC. “While the primary constituency of our Community Development Corporation is our neighboring community in Gentilly, we created this tremendous health fair because we know there is a city-wide and regional need for affordable medical assistance. Fortunately, we were able to arrange for all these services to be free and we hope to draw a tremendous audience from throughout the city and the region to take advantage of all these opportunities.”

Besides the screenings, there will be information regarding mental health, depression and stress management. There will be an on-site blood mobile and on-site mammogram truck. Seminars will be offered on cancer prevention, prostate cancer, AIDS awareness, heart disease and stroke prevention.

Every attendee will be offered a free 5-minute massage, CPR demonstrations, healthy food demonstrations and wellness products will also be displayed.

Those in attendance are invited to participate in physical fitness activities, including hip hop

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aerobics and rock climbing. For more information, call 816-4205.

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