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Health Fair Provides Free Screening for More than 100 Local Residents at Healthy East Chicago

(East Chicago, IN) — On Saturday, June 16, 2007, the East Chicago Lions Club and St. Catherine Hospital hosted the Annual Health Fair at Healthy East Chicago Inc. (HEC). More than 100 people took advantage of free health screenings that included eyesight, blood pressure, blood sugar and diabetes tests. The main purpose of the Health Fair was to help those individuals who do not have health insurance and cannot afford routine doctor visits.

Nearly 20 vendors donated their time and expertise. These included Hospice of the Calumet Area, Lake County Rehabilitation Center, Promotores de Salud Tobacco Prevention, De Mujer a Mujer "Women to Women" HIV/AIDS Prevention Education, as well as several food and nutrition suppliers. St. Catherine Hospital provided representatives from its Cancer Resource Center, Radiology Department and medical personnel who administered the blood pressure and diabetes tests.

The Indiana Lions Club sponsored free vision-screening through the Lions mobile Vision Van. Since starting a year ago, the Van has already screened more than 7,000 people, approximately half of whom have been children. Whenever problems are detected,

individuals are referred to a professional for an appropriate follow up exam and, when necessary, treatment. “The Vision Van Program is strictly a screening program. We do not actually diagnose problems, or write prescriptions for eyeglasses. The program is staffed completely by volunteers,” said David Padilla, member of the Indiana Lions Club.

Many attendees expressed their appreciation for all the free services. East Chicago resident Claudia Valladolid, who came with her mother, aunt and brother said, “I came [to the Health Fair] because we live in the neighborhood. It is great to know that we don’t have to go out of our city to receive these services.”

The event was funded by the Foundations of East Chicago which is paid for by donations from the Resorts East Chicago Casino and Hotel. The Foundations are committed to improving the lives of every resident of our city. Since 1997, they have given more than \$23 million in grants to local churches, government, schools and community organizations that make our area a safer and healthier place to learn and live.

Cynthia Rivas, Executive Director of Healthy East Chicago Inc., and David Padilla, member of the Lions Club, both agreed that the health fair was a great success. “We are truly grateful to all the sponsors who volunteered their time and resources to provide these free health resources to our neighbors. And, we look forward to serving even more people next year!” said Rivas.

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Healthy East Chicago, Inc. is a consortium organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes to focus on issues such as access to health care, educational opportunities, public safety initiatives, environmental programs and information/referral networks. Address: 100 West Chicago Ave. East Chicago, IN 46312
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