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Announcing the 2nd Annual Houston Juneteenth Multicultural Health Festival Kicks off June 21 in Discovery Green Park

Houston, TX (May 23, 2008) - With health care emerging as a top issue in this year's presidential election and the cost of health care continuing to rise, the second annual Houston Juneteenth Multicultural Health Festival (HJMHF) presented by UnitedHealth Group will offer Houston residents a fun and informative opportunity to focus on health enhancement for the entire family.

The multicultural health event, which will kick off June 21, seeks to promote the importance of living an active, healthy lifestyle among minorities by offering FREE health screenings, a health conference, parade, Real Men Cook competition, **Guinness World Record Couples Salsa Dance**, fitness demonstrations, live entertainment and a list of other activities in Houston's premier downtown park attraction – Discovery Green.

The festival, which drew more than 10,000 in its inaugural year at Tom Bass Park, is expected to attract more than 15,000 to its new centralized location. The health event is FREE and open to the public. It will highlight health issues related to African Americans, Hispanic Americans and Asian Americans. The event will operate from 12 p.m. until 6 p.m.

“The entire weekend provides a comfortable environment to learn how to maintain and sustain a healthy lifestyle while bringing families closer together,” said Francis Page, Jr., chairman of the African American Wellness Committee for the Houston Wellness Association. “This is a great event because of the rising costs of health care, the number of uninsured citizens and the growing health concerns within minority communities. We hope this event begins to reverse the alarming trend.”

The event will offer a wide array of FREE health services that will benefit Houston's high percentage of African Americans and Hispanics who are uninsured or underinsured. The Harris County Hospital District and the city's Department of Health and Human Services will help to organize health screenings, child vaccinations, and H.I.V/AIDS testing during the event. There will also be information on home mortgage financing.

Discovery Green is the perfect venue for the family-oriented event. As attendees walk the 12 acres of lush parkland, they can try their hand at different sports games, enjoy live entertainment, and check out the goods, services and products being offered by more than 150 vendors.

Juneteenth is the common Texas phrase for June 19, 1865; the day when Union General Gordon Granger issued General Order #3 in Galveston, Texas setting free all remain African American slaves held in Texas.

A complete event schedule and media downloads can be found at www.houstonhealthfestival.org.

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