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ELECTRONIC PRESS RELEASE

Empowerment is a common theme for public and private Health Fairs in Michigan.

Detroit, MI , August 12, 2007:

Cuts in funding for corporate and community based community health outreach programs may have decreased intervention in some states but prevention is still in the cards in Michigan. It is the Michigan Department of Community Health's (MDCH) mission to "protect, preserve, and promote the health and safety of the people of Michigan with particular attention to providing for the needs of the vulnerable and the underserved populations".

Two Michigan Health Fairs, held just days apart, had similar objectives. On August 10, 2007, the Livingston Coalition on Aging held their annual Power Day at the Brighton High school. This event had over 200 participants interested in gaining control of their health. There was a nominal fee for the event; nonetheless, participants enjoyed lunch, a speaker on senior health care issues, and a fair with over 35 booths. The booths provided information and educational materials to increase awareness of wellness for the elderly. All participants were asked to fill out a survey ensuring that seniors could express their future interests in health care and elder care issues. "This information will be used to plan next year's event and help to prepare our county for the soon surge in elders in our community", commented Mark Swanson, the Director of the Howell Area Senior Center and Coordinator of the event.

On August 15, the General Motors Vehicle Manufacturing Facility in Detroit, Michigan, held its 2007 Health Fair. This was free of charge to employees and was held during their extended lunch hour. The goal was to educate and expose the ~ 2500 employees to a variety of health issues including prevention of injury, stress reduction, chronic health conditions and screenings. There were 40 vendors at the event, including the Red Cross and United Way; showing that health is a community issue as well as a personal one.

Dana Gomez, Work-Fit Program Manager for the Detroit-Hamtramck Rehabilitation Center participated in both events. "These were opportunities for our organization to make an impact in the health of the community", she reported, "We have a commitment to empowering employees, clients, and our community to make their own health a priority and empower lifestyle change".

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For more detail on Mission of the MDCH, see: <http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132--100765--,00.html>

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