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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**LARGEST HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE IN LA HISTORY AT CAPACITY AS HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS SIGN UP FOR FREE TICKETS TO FIRST USA HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS EVENT! ST. JOHN'S WELL CHILD & FAMILY CENTER CLINICS SPONSORS!**

[www.southlahealthandhumanrights.org](http://www.southlahealthandhumanrights.org)

*("Threats of healthcare cuts by the Governor are a direct attack on the human rights of all Californians. The Health and Human Rights Conference will offer concrete solutions to prevent healthcare cuts as a result of the California budget crisis.")*

*Jim Mangia, CEO St. John's Well Child & Family Center Clinics*

**SOUTH LOS ANGELES – JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> 2009**

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009, St. John's Well Child and Family Center (SJWCFC) in South Los Angeles, in partnership with a host of south Los Angeles organizations, will be launching a major event in Los Angeles' healthcare history. **The First USA Healthcare and Human Rights Conference** hosted by the nation's most impacted health clinics will offer solutions to healthcare cuts.

"This conference will impact significantly on the health of residents of south Los Angeles and the nation, as we establish the fundamental right to health for every global citizen," says Jim Mangia, President & CEO of SJWCFC. This conference will impact on the national healthcare reform debate by bringing together community leaders, nonprofit organizations, healthcare providers, hospitals, service providers, community residents, international advocates and elected officials to proclaim a declaration of health and human rights for south Los Angeles. "South Los Angeles is the appropriate place for an ambitious and serious beginning for a national and international health and human rights revolution," says Mangia.

**The conference will take place at the California Science Center, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at, 700 Exposition Drive, Exposition Park, Los Angeles 90037. Registration is free and available online at [www.southlahealthandhumanrights.org](http://www.southlahealthandhumanrights.org), or by calling 323-541-1600 ex. 4001. Exhibition space is also available.**

Speakers and panelists for the historic conference include: LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, United States Congressman Dennis Kucinich, Dr. Robert Ross, President & CEO of The California Endowment, Jim Mangia, CEO St. John's Well Child and Family Center Clinics, Dr. Violeta Menjivar, Mayor San Salvador, Dr. Victor Sidel, Co-Founder Physicians for Social Responsibility-former President, American Public Health Association, Anuadha Mittal- Executive Director, The Oakland Institute, Nancy Ibrahim, MPH, Executive Director, Esperanza Community Housing Corporation, Becky Dennison, Co-Director, LA Community Action Network, Dr. Jonathan Fielding, MD, MPH, Director, LA County

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Department of Public Health, Lark Galloway-Gilliam, Executive Director Community Health Councils, Frank Donaghue, CEO-Physicians for Human Rights, Anand Grover-United Nationsl Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health.

The event is sponsored by groups such as California School Health Centers Association, L.A. Care, Los Angeles Best Babies Network, MedPoint Management, and The California Endowment, and is endorsed by over 30 local, national and international health and human rights organizations. Sponsors are still being added.

In July of 2008, St. John's hosted, **“Taming the Perfect Storm: Addressing the Impact of Public Health, Housing and Law Enforcement Policies on Homelessness and Health in South Los Angeles.”** Attended by a standing room only crowd in South LA and sponsored by five of south LA's top service providers, that forum set the stage and infrastructure for this unprecedented conference in South LA nearly a year later.

“The focus of this event is to establish the fundamental framework on the notion that health care is a human right,” says Mangia. Through this understanding, meetings and lectures will create a framework for all of South LA to interweave a set of policies that can and will achieve a level of safety and care for our community. There is a great crisis in our state for healthcare and human rights and we intend to lead the way out of the darkness.”

**TO INTERVIEW JIM MANGIA IN ADVANCE OF THE CONFERENCE PLEASE CONTACT: SHARON H. JIMENEZ, ICON IMAGING PR, 310-409-3306 CELL, [ENZA@AOL.COM](mailto:ENZA@AOL.COM)**