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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**SOUTH LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY CLINIC
LAUNCHES FIRST U.S. HEALTH & HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE**

**ST. JOHN'S WELL CHILD AND FAMILY CENTER
SPONSORS HISTORIC "RIGHT-TO-HEALTH" EVENT**

("We are bringing together the health and human rights voices in south LA and beyond to discuss the healthcare crisis and how we build a movement for the right to health,"

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

www.southlahealthandhumanrights.org)

SOUTH LOS ANGELES – JUNE 5TH 2009

On June 5th, 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 Los Angeles Healthcare and Human Rights Conference, June 5th 2009**, will start to develop a set of proposals for moving the healthcare and human rights work forward in South LA and beyond.

"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, 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, MD, Distinguished Professor of School Medicine, Monteliore Medical Center and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, 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,

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LA County Department of Public Health, Lark Galloway-Gilliam, Executive Director Community Health Councils and others TBA.

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.

TO INTERVIEW JIM MANGIA IN ADVANCE OF THE CONFERENCE PLEASE CONTACT: SHARON H. JIMENEZ, ICON IMAGING PR, 310-409-3306 CELL, ENZAHA@AOL.COM