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**Free Health, Dental and Vision Screenings at Hamilton Health Center on May 2 Will Help Harrisburg Area Children and Adults**

*Highmark Blue Shield, Davis Vision, United Concordia and the Harrisburg Area Dental Society Team Up With Dauphin County Partners for a Healthy Community*

Camp Hill, Pa. (April 24, 2008) – The Dauphin County Partners for a Healthy Community will host a day of free health and vision screenings and dental care on Saturday, May 2 at Hamilton Health Center in Harrisburg. The public is invited to participate in this day-long community event which is open to children and adults who are uninsured or have minimal health or dental coverage, and no pre-registration is required for medical or vision screening.

Event partners include Highmark Blue Shield, Davis Vision, United Concordia Dental, the Harrisburg Area Dental Society, and Hamilton Health Center. A variety of screenings and services will be offered from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at no cost to participants.

Additional participants to date include:

- Highmark Caring Place
- CHIP, The Children's Health Insurance Program
- Hamilton Health Center's Baby Love, OB/GYN and WIC programs
- Community Check-Up Center
- Dauphin County Department of Drug & Alcohol Services
- Catalyst , a cancer support advocacy group

- Family Health Council of Central PA
- Penn State Cooperative Extension
- Dauphin County Area Agency on Aging
- Pathstone, a community development and human service agency
- American Cancer Society

Screenings and services will be provided at Hamilton Health Center, 1650 Walnut Street, Harrisburg. Medical professionals will be available on site, and will provide free consultations. Information on Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), adultBasic and Medicaid programs administered by Highmark will also be available. For more information, call (717) 302-3851. Dental services may be scheduled by calling (717) 230-3957.

"Since many families do not have insurance or have limited funding for care, professionals will volunteer their time to bring this important service to the community to ensure those who participate receive the care they may need," said Hamilton Health Center Chief Executive Officer Jeannine Peterson. "We are pleased to be included in this inaugural partnership to help our community with their health, dental and vision care needs and services."

Good dental and vision health is important to a child's development and overall health, and the community-based screening offered by the participating Partners for a Healthy Community will provide Dauphin County children and their parents with a better understanding about staying healthy.

"Without adequate insurance, people tend to put off seeking medical treatment, which can potentially contribute to more severe health problems," said Highmark's Director of Program Implementation and Development, Charles Gladney. "Partners for a Healthy Community provides people with an opportunity to learn, to be screened, to receive services and information that will help midstate residents to live longer, healthier lives."

"Oral disease is a growing epidemic in the United States," says Harlon L. Robinson, United Concordia corporate vice president of Human Resources and Administration and Corporate Diversity chairman. "Dental decay can cause pain, loss of time from school or work and lower self-esteem. Our goal is to make sure

everyone has the opportunity to see a dentist so they can achieve optimal oral health no matter where they live. We also teach them healthy dental habits that they can carry with them through their lives.”

“Vision care professionals agree that fewer than 20 percent of children in our country are adequately screened for vision problems which affect one in 202 preschoolers and one in four school-age children,” said Laura Dyer, Davis Vision’s assistant vice president, Community Outreach and Media Relations.

Free health screenings include:

- Glucose/sugar
- Blood pressure
- Cholesterol
- Body mass index
- Vision

And, free dental services for children and adults will include:

- Screenings
- Cleanings
- Restorative procedures

In December 2008, the Highmark Foundation awarded a \$100,000 grant to Hamilton Health Center, a federally-qualified health center, to expand dental services to low-income and uninsured individuals in Dauphin County. The grant is funding an expansion in hours the clinic will be open, including a new Saturday clinic. The grant also has provided the financial resources for the addition of a new dentist, a new dental assistant, and a new front desk staff member to serve the additional patients expected to receive services. Services offered include general dentistry, dentures, examinations, cleanings, tooth extractions, and x-rays. Nearly 6,500 dental patients accounted for over 10,000 dental encounters in 2008.

### **About Highmark Blue Shield**

As one of the state's leading health insurers and with nearly 70 years of community involvement, Highmark Blue Shield helps members live longer, healthier lives by ensuring access to affordable, high quality health insurance and services. Highmark offers the widest range of products, access to all area hospitals and the most responsive customer service. Highmark exerts an enormous economic impact throughout Pennsylvania. A recent study states that Highmark's positive impact exceeded \$2.5 billion. Employing more than 5,000 people in central Pennsylvania and the Lehigh Valley, Highmark provides the resources to give its members a greater hand in their health.

Highmark Blue Shield is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans. For more information about Highmark Blue Shield, visit [www.highmark.com](http://www.highmark.com).

### **About Davis Vision**

Davis Vision, Inc. is part of the HVHC Inc. group of companies, which also includes Eye Care Centers of America and Viva International Group. One of the nation's premier managed vision care companies, Davis Vision has been providing comprehensive vision benefits for over 45 years, and currently serves over 55 million individuals nationwide through an extensive blended network of approximately 30,000 participating ophthalmologists and optometrists, in addition to many opticians and top national retail providers. For more information about Davis Vision, visit [www.davisvision.com](http://www.davisvision.com). . Its Total Vision Care retail store is located at 3401 Hartzdale Drive in Camp Hill, and can be reached by phone at (717) 975-0501.

### **About United Concordia**

United Concordia, headquartered in Harrisburg, PA, is one of the nation's largest dental insurers, with nearly 7.9 million members worldwide and 2008 revenues of \$1.4 billion. United Concordia has a company-wide dedication and commitment to superior customer service which is evident in the design, implementation, administration and servicing of its dental benefits programs. For more information about United Concordia products, visit [www.unitedconcordia.com](http://www.unitedconcordia.com)

### **About The Harrisburg Area Dental Society**

The Harrisburg Area Dental Society is made up of over 600 active member-dentists and is the local constituent of the 5th District within the Pennsylvania Dental Society. The 5th District represents dentists from Cumberland, Dauphin, Perry, York and Lancaster counties. The mission the Society is to support the opportunity for optimal dental health, promote programs to improve availability and quality of dental care, preserve ethical conduct, defend the doctor-patient relationship, and educate the public while representing the interests and independence of the dental profession.

### **About Hamilton Health Center**

Hamilton Health Center (HHC) is a Federally Qualified Health Center. This Harrisburg-based non-profit community-based health organization provides comprehensive primary health, oral, HIV, and substance abuse prevention and case management services to persons in all stages of the life cycle. HHC's focus is to eliminate access barriers so that all people, regardless of health or insurance status, can obtain affordable medical, dental and social support services. It is the only health care provider within a 25 mile radius of Harrisburg that enables uninsured patients to pay for services on a sliding fee based on income and family size; provides free transportation to and from appointments; access to low cost medications; and free interpreting services for those who are limited English speaking.

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