



For Immediate Release

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**The Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. and CMS Partner to
Provide Children's Health & Education Festival
Free Kindergarten Health Assessments Offered**

Charlotte, NC - September 4, 2009- The Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. (JLC) and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) are sponsoring a second Kids HealthLink festival on September 12. Kids HealthLink (KHL) is a free festival for children and their families to receive free health assessments and to learn about health-focused topics.

KHL will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2009, from 10 am until 2 pm at Ranson Middle School, 5850 Statesville Road in Charlotte, North Carolina. Admission is free. Spanish language interpreters will be provided.

Kids HealthLink highlights include:

- Free kindergarten health assessments;
- Free vision, hearing and dental screenings;
- Free immunizations. (Parents must bring a form of ID and immunization records);
- Free entertainment and giveaways.

“Through Kids HealthLink, the JLC and CMS are able to provide free health services and screenings for children in Charlotte. We know that healthy children are better learners, and our goal is to help ALL children have the tools they need to lead healthy lives,” said JLC President Kelley Cobb.

The first of two Kids Health Link festivals was held on Saturday August 22 at Briarwood Elementary. In just one day, KHL served children from more than 75 schools, providing 93 medical screenings, 89 dental screenings, 96 vision screenings and giving 133 children a total of 225 CMS-required immunizations through the Big Shot Saturdays program.

The August 22 event also featured the JLC's first *Kids in the Kitchen* event. Celebrity chef and *Kids in the Kitchen* spokesman, George Stella, facilitated the *Iron Kids Chef Challenge* competition to kick-off the JLC's new *Kids in the Kitchen* program. JLC's *Kids in the Kitchen* is an international initiative of the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) to empower youth to make healthy lifestyle choices and help reverse the growth of childhood obesity and its associated health issues.

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Kids HealthLink stems from the JLC's Healthy Child Initiative (HCI), a multi-year commitment to raising the awareness of children's health issues, particularly in the areas of mental, dental and physical health in our community. Additional sponsors include Levine Children's Hospital, International House, Speedway Children's Charities and AJLI's Kids in the Kitchen.

About the Junior League of Charlotte

The Junior League of Charlotte, Inc. (JLC) is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community. Through its actions and leadership of trained volunteers, the JLC is a leading force in improving the lives of children and its families in this community. The JLC annually contributes over \$50,000 to community projects and over 25,000 volunteer hours. Projects that are supported by the JLC include: Junior League of Charlotte Family Resource Center at Levine Children's Hospital, Kids in Motion, Kids HealthLink, Partnership for Children's Dental Health, Big Shot Saturdays, JLC Puppets and more. For additional information on the Junior League of Charlotte, call 704-375-5993 or visit the website www.jlcharlotte.org.