



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MEDIA ALERT**

**EL CENTRO DE CORAZÓN LUNCHEON TO SUPPORT INCREASED DEMAND FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FOR STRUGGLING FAMILIES ACROSS THE GREATER HOUSTON AREA**

*One of few organizations providing primary health care after hours and on weekends to help relieve burden on hospital emergency rooms*

- WHO:** Co-Chairs: Melissa & Bill King and Wendy Montoya Rodriguez & Council Member James Rodriguez; Honoree: Humana and Pattie Dale Tye
- WHAT:** **“Making a Difference”** Luncheon benefiting Pediatric and Prenatal Clinics at El Centro de Corazón, a community-based Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) providing primary care, pediatric, prenatal, mental health and dental services in the East End of Houston, and honoring Humana and Pattie Dale Tye for their contributions to the Houston community.
- WHERE:** River Oaks Country Club, 1600 River Oaks Boulevard
- WHEN:** **Wednesday, May 13, 2009**  
11:30 a.m. Registration; 12:00 noon Luncheon
- SPEAKER:** Harris County Judge Ed Emmett with comments from Daniel J. Wolterman, President & CEO, Memorial Hermann Healthcare System
- WHY:** El Centro de Corazón provides low-cost health care services to individuals and families from across the Greater Houston Area. It is faced with an increasing demand for services in the wake of Hurricane Ike and the economic crisis. El Centro provides primary health care services after hours and on weekends in an effort to help relieve the burden on Houston-area hospital emergency rooms.
- TICKETS:** Sponsorships and individual tickets are available by contacting Michele Leal at (713) 926-1849 or [mleal@elcentrochc.org](mailto:mleal@elcentrochc.org).
- INFO.:** El Centro de Corazón was founded in June 1994, by Mary Jo May, as a community-based social service organization for East End families, with an initial focus on early childhood development. Under her leadership, El Centro has grown into a community-based Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) providing primary care, pediatric, prenatal, mental health and dental services in the East End of Houston. When several area clinics closed their doors or moved to other neighborhoods, the East End community was left without adequate medical, dental, and prenatal services. Filing for a Federally Qualified Health Center grant when no one else would come forward, El Centro opened its first clinic in December 2003. Today, El Centro operates three sites and continues to expand services to meet the ever growing need of the community.