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### **SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS PARTNERS WITH REMOTE AREA MEDICAL ON RETURN OF MEGA FREE RAM/LA MEDICAL CLINIC AT L.A. SPORTS ARENA**

*Last year, more than 6,300 people were treated at the Forum in Inglewood*

**LOS ANGELES** – A day after the signing of the historic national healthcare reform bill, Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today joined representatives of Remote Area Medical® (RAM) on the floor of the Los Angeles Sports Arena to announce the return of the week-long free health care clinic that last year provided about 14,500 services to more than 6,300 patients.

The Supervisor was joined by Stan Brock, who founded the nonprofit volunteer organization that offers free health, dental and vision care in the United States and underdeveloped countries; Speaker Emeritus Karen Bass; A&M Records co-founder and philanthropist, Jerry Moss; and Los Angeles Coliseum Commission President Barry Sanders.

The second annual RAM/LA will be held April 25 to May 3 at the Sports Arena. This year's week-long event is expected to be even bigger, reinforcing the need for national health reform.

RAM/LA will once again provide free health care services to those who are uninsured, underinsured or unemployed -- without cost to the patient, taxpayers, or the government. In addition to the immediate care provided during the free clinic, there will also be a strong emphasis on health education, prevention, and self-care.

“The historic health reform legislation will mean many of the County’s 2.1 million uninsured residents will qualify for free Medicaid and federal subsidies to buy health insurance,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. “However, the bill is just a beginning. Implementation will take place over four years. We will continue to need events like RAM/LA to fill in the gaps and provide services to our uninsured throughout the County.”

In anticipation of an even greater turnout this year, the organizers issued a call for volunteers to serve those who visit the clinic. In addition to professionally trained medical specialists, RAM/LA needs non-medical volunteers to help register patients, manage patient flow and assist professional staff.

“We hope to draw additional support from optometrists, dentists and food vendors to provide added services and ready-made food or grocery donations for the event,” said Stan Brock, founder of RAM/LA. “We would like to expand capacity with more volunteers and resources to be able to provide care to 1,200 or more patients daily.”

With increasing unemployment rates and the rising cost of healthcare, many Americans now find themselves uninsured and unable to afford medical, dental and vision care. In California, this situation worsened in July 2009, when the state’s Medi-Cal system stopped providing dental and optometry coverage for low-income adults, leaving thousands more without dental and vision coverage. Many of these people were in the midst of multi-month procedures, which left them without the means to pay to complete them.

In addition, Los Angeles County is the epicenter of the uninsured in the United States, with over 2.1 million residents without health coverage. Because of this need in California, RAM staged a clinic in the County last year, the first time it has done so in a major metropolitan area. Thousands of lives were changed during those eight days in August 2009 and RAM hopes to do it again in 2010 and make history.

For more information on the upcoming RAM/LA clinic or to obtain volunteer information, please visit [www.ramfreeclinic.org](http://www.ramfreeclinic.org) or visit RAM/LA’s Facebook and Twitter page at:

- <http://www.facebook.com/#/event.php?eid=292741122080&index=1>
- <http://twitter.com/ramlosangeles>

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