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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HRSA’S SENIOR LEADER MAKES SPECIAL STOP IN SUNSET PARK

Note to Editors: Photos available.

November 10, 2008, Brooklyn, New York...Elizabeth M. Duke, Ph.D., administrator for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), paid a special visit to Brooklyn’s Sunset Park Family Health Center.

During her visit, Duke toured the family health center and spoke to members of the Sunset Park Health Council, as well as health center leadership and staff about primary care, community health, education and culturally competent community outreach (initiatives the Sunset Park Family Health Center is well known for in Brooklyn and at the national level).

The HRSA administrator applauded the health network for its history of leadership and innovation among FQHCs nationwide, and offered particular praise to members of the Sunset Park Health Council for their tireless devotion to the health of their neighbors. “This is a wonderful demonstration of the remarkable work that our nation’s community health centers are doing,” said Duke.

Duke’s visit marks yet another significant milestone for the community health center network in receiving high-ranking government health officials. In 2006, U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona, M.D., referred to Lutheran as “Brooklyn’s hidden gem” and characterized the health center model as “one that should be replicated nationally.”

As HRSA's senior-most leader, Duke administers a \$7 billion annual budget (FY 2008) to expand access to quality health care for all Americans through an array of grants to state and local governments, health professions training programs, and community-based health care providers including the nation's network of federally qualified health centers (FQHCs). These HRSA-supported grantees, like the Sunset Park Family Health Center, provide direct health care services to 20 million people each year. Under her leadership, HRSA has created or expanded more than 1,200 service delivery sites and boosted the number of patients served annually at health centers from about 10 million in 2001 to more than 16 million in 2006. In 2006, Duke received a Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Executive, the most prestigious award offered by a U.S. President to federal senior executives and professionals.

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The Lutheran Family Health Centers (LFHC), based in Sunset Park, is a federally qualified community-based ambulatory health care system affiliated with Lutheran HealthCare. Governed by the Sunset Park Health Council, Inc., and serving southwest Brooklyn, LFHC is one of the largest health center networks in the country. With nine full-time community health centers, eight medical partnerships, 14 school-based health centers and community programs, including three WIC programs, adult and family literacy programs, three child care centers and a family wellness center, the network has served as Brooklyn’s medical home for more than 40 years. Visit LHC's new online newsroom at <http://www.lmcmc.com/News> for the latest events and happenings.