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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Collaborative effort provides health services to child care providers**

The 11th Annual Southwest Missouri Child Care Provider Health Conference will be held this Saturday morning, Oct. 5, at Glendale Christian Church, 2110 S. Blackman Road, in Springfield. The event begins at 8 a.m. and runs through approximately 12:15 p.m.

Each year, the conference serves some 200 local people who work as area childcare providers. They will have the opportunity to receive a variety of important health screenings and attend continuing education classes.

The conference represents a community-wide collaboration between agencies including: Council of Churches of the Ozarks – Child Care Aware® of Southern Missouri; Community Partnership of the Ozarks – EduCARE; Council of Churches of the Ozarks; CoxHealth; Jordan Valley Community Health Center; Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences at Southwest Baptist University; Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services; the Springfield-Greene County Health Department; Vatterott College; and Pierce Vision Specialists.

"We're coming together to provide essential preventative health services to a group of people who do essential work for our children in the area, but who are often uninsured or under-insured," says Angie Owings, Public Health Nurse with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department and an organizer. "There are more than 150 licensed child care facilities and more than 16,000 children under age 5 here in Greene County. We're providing some support to people who care for our local kids and families."

The event is open to the media for coverage on Saturday. Screenings will be held from 8 to 10:30 a.m. They include tests for body mass index, blood sugar and cholesterol levels, vision and hearing, tuberculosis, bone density, skin cancer and breast cancer. Vaccinations against tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough) and flu will be given as well. Screenings are based on recommendations of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. The Springfield Police Department will hold training on surviving a violent intruder from 10 a.m. to noon.

The conference has been recognized over the years as a best practice. It was awarded the Model Practices Award in 2011 by the National Association for County & City Health Officials (NACCHO), and the Show Me Public Health Award in 2004 by the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services Center for Local Public Health.

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