



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Jackie Quintanilla
323.202.1053
jacqueline.quintanilla@edelman.com

**CALIFORNIA FIRST LADY MARIA SHRIVER TO WELCOME
SECOND REMOTE AREA MEDICAL EXPEDITION TO LOS ANGELES**

Shriver to Visit the RAM / LA Free Clinic on April 27 and Provide Staffing and Resources from her WE Connect Program

Wristbands for Patients to be Distributed on a First-Come, First-Serve Basis on April 25 at the LA Sports Arena Starting at 9 a.m.

LOS ANGELES, April 19, 2010 – First Lady Maria Shriver will welcome back Remote Area Medical® (RAM) to kick-off the largest free healthcare clinic in the United States. For the second year in Los Angeles, RAM/LA will provide free medical, dental and vision services to those in need from April 27 through May 3, 2010 starting at 6 a.m. Shriver will host the opening press conference on April 27 at 10 a.m. at the Los Angeles Sports Arena located at 3939 South Figueroa Street in Los Angeles.

“With 2.2 million uninsured in Los Angeles, I am thrilled to support RAM’s mission of providing access to medical care for all Californians,” said Maria Shriver. “Though my work with WE Connect and at our recent WE Connect Weekends I have seen first-hand that the need for these services and support is great and growing. I’m proud to say that my WE Connect volunteers and staff will be at the RAM/LA free clinic all week to helping connect people to resources in their own community and continue our commitment to help families in need.”

RAM/LA will transform the Sports Arena into a giant free clinic where they will deploy hundreds of volunteer doctors, dentists, optometrists, nurses and non-medical professionals to serve those in the greater Los Angeles area who are in need of care. Services will include physical exams, mammography, PAP smears, diabetes screening, dental cleanings, extractions, fillings, and root canals. Prescription eye glasses will be made and fitted on site.

“This year’s event is about Los Angeles coming together, as a community, to help our own during a time when the state of our nation’s healthcare system is still undergoing changes,” said Don Manelli, RAM/LA producer. “Last year, RAM/LA provided more than 14,500 services

to approximately 6,344 patients, this year we hope to serve even greater numbers and we will place strong emphasis on health education, prevention, and self-care.”

With increasing unemployment rates and the rising cost of healthcare, many Americans now find themselves uninsured or underinsured. 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. These factors have left thousands of Californians unable to afford medical, dental and vision care.

“I’m excited to have been invited back to Los Angeles to serve those who need immediate medical care,” said Stan Brock, RAM founder. “This wouldn’t be possible without the support of public and private organizations who have partnered with RAM to once again make healthcare history in Los Angeles.”

The weeklong event will run from Tuesday, April 27 to Monday, May 3 starting at 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. RAM/LA is still looking for medical and non-medical volunteers and food donations, including refreshments and meals for the volunteers who will be spending long hours at the clinic.

Wristbands will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis on April 25 at the Los Angeles Sports Arena starting at 9 a.m. Individuals can choose the day they want to visit the clinic and line up to get a wristband for that particular day. More information can be found at www.ramfreeclinic.org.

About Remote Area Medical

Founded in 1985 by Stan Brock, Remote Area Medical® is a nonprofit volunteer organization that offers free healthcare services (health, dental and vision care) in underdeveloped countries and in the United States. RAM has successfully held hundreds of free clinics providing services to thousands of men, women and children.

About WE Connect

First launched by Shriver in 2005, the WE Connect program model is now being emulated by 24 other states. In addition to the WE Connect events and the WEb Connector tool, WE Connect has partnered with organizations across the state to communicate with people in new and innovative ways. Through a partnership with La Opinión, the nation’s largest Spanish-speaking newspaper, WE Connect has developed three editions of a 24-page, full color, bi-lingual supplement that has been distributed to over 20 million Californians in need. WE

Connect has also worked with partners to create permanent WE Connect Neighborhood Centers in Fresno, Santa Ana and Irvine. In December 2009, The Women's Conference created the WE Connect–Million Meals Initiative, as the organization made a donation to The California Association of Food Banks to provide more than one million meals to California families in need. The donation was allocated to the food bank's 44 member organizations who then distributed the food to California families through its more than 5,000 community-based organizations.

More information about WE Connect Weekend events and the WE Connect program can be found at www.WEConnect.net.

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***Note to Media:** Media interested in covering the event on any of the clinic days will need to pre-register and get clearance for filming or taking photos on the clinic floor. For more information please contact Jackie Quintanilla at 323.202.1053.*