



****For Immediate Release****

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The Illinois Poison Center Recognized by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois For Its Community Service

(Chicago, Illinois) – The Illinois Poison Center announced today that it has been recognized by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois for its success in expanding access to health care, improving the well being of the community, and has been awarded a \$75,000 grant to continue its important efforts.

“We are proud to support the Illinois Poison Center,” said Clarita Santos, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois director of community health initiatives. “Our mission is to promote the health and wellness of our members and our communities through accessible, cost-effective, quality health care. By supporting organizations like the Illinois Poison Center, we are able to reach out to the people most in need.”

The Illinois Poison Center is one of 350 organizations to receive a grant or donation this year from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, which focuses its giving in four key areas: health services for the uninsured and underserved, human services, education and the arts.

For additional information about Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois’ charitable giving program log onto: www.bcbsil.com/about_us/involvement.htm

The Illinois Poison Center is the only certified, regional poison center in Illinois, serving more than 12 million residents in 102 counties – 24 hours a day, 365 days a year – via a national, toll-free number, 1-800-222-1222.

The toll-free hot line will connect callers with a local poison center from anywhere in the United States. Staffed by pharmacists, physicians, nurses and poison information providers, the IPC provides poison prevention information and treatment advice to the public and health care professionals on alcohol and drug misuse, medication problems, bites and stings, occupational accidents and other poisonings. The Illinois Poison Center is a program of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council, a membership and service organization dedicated to helping members care for their communities through access to health care and improved delivery of services.

www.illinoispoisoncenter.org