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The Illinois Poison Center Announces New Partnerships with Community Organizations Assisting in Poison Prevention Education Outreach

(Chicago) – The Illinois Poison Center (IPC) announced today that it has selected 12 new community service organizations, located throughout Illinois, to help provide outreach and education to their communities in an effort to reduce the number of incidents of poisoning exposures in the state. Selected agencies will receive training and assistance to integrate IPC’s poison prevention information and materials into their organization’s current outreach efforts. These agencies include: Asian Human Service (Chicago), CDCMF Neighborhood Center (Evergreen Park), Ember911 Child Safety Program (Momence), Federacion de Clubes Michoacanos en Illinois (Chicago), Illinois Migrant Council (Chicago), Ingalls Memorial Hospital (Harvey), North Shore Senior Center (Northfield), North Star United Missionary Workers of America (Chicago), Salud Ofrecida a Latinos, a student organization under the direction of Rosalind Franklin University (North Chicago), Sherman Hospital (Elgin), St. Clair County Health Department (Belleville) and Universidad Popular (Chicago).

The Illinois Poison Center is committed to providing immediate expert treatment recommendations and innovative public and professional poison prevention education. Increasing its capacity to deliver poison prevention education to Illinois residents is essential to achieving the mission. The IPC is proud to play a vital role in Illinois’ health care network and welcomes the support of these new community organization partners.

“In a matter of minutes a poisoning exposure can become a life and death situation. During this critical time, the experience and expertise of the Illinois Poison Center is essential to ensuring a safe outcome,” said Dr. Michael Wahl, Medical Director of the Illinois Poison Center.

The Illinois Poison Center offers free, confidential poison prevention advice and treatment recommendations via its toll-free hotline, **1-800-222-1222**, 24 hours a day 365 days a year to 12.8 million Illinois residents. Last year, nearly 100,000 calls were received by the call center staff and 21 percent of those calls came from medical professionals seeking specialized consultation services in the management of poisoned patients.

In 2008 alone, the Illinois Poison Center saved more than \$60 million in health care costs by reducing the number of unnecessary emergency department visits, hospital admissions and shortening the length of a hospital stay for admitted patients. For more information about free poison prevention materials and training go to: www.IllinoisPoisonCenter.org

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The Illinois Poison Center serves all of Illinois – 24 hours a day, 365 days a year – via a national, toll-free number, 1-800-222-1222. Staffed by pharmacists, physicians, nurses and poison information providers, the IPC provides poison prevention information and treatment advice on household products, medication issues, alcohol and drug misuse, bites and stings and other poisonings. The Illinois Poison Center is a program of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council.