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News Release

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## **R&B Singer Eric Benet Joins Effort Towards Healthier Cleveland**

*MetroHealth partners with WZAK for national health observance*

(Cleveland) – Grammy-nominated, platinum-selling R&B singer Eric Benet and 93.1 WZAK are joining forces with MetroHealth to encourage Clevelanders to take better care of their health at a special community health fair. Free health screenings will be held at the MetroHealth Buckeye Health Center (2816 East 116<sup>th</sup> St.) on **Tuesday, September 16 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.** WZAK personality Kim Johnson will broadcast live during the event.

The initiative stems from a national campaign championed by nationally-syndicated radio host, Tom Joyner (heard on WZAK weekdays from 6-10 a.m.). The “Take a Loved One to the Doctor”, initiative began seven years ago with an important message aimed at his mainly African American listeners - take charge of your health by making an appointment for a check up or screening and encouraging a friend, neighbor, or family member to do the same. This program is part of the *Closing the Health Gap* campaign, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, dedicated to improving health care among minority groups.

“One of the keys to staying healthy is identifying potential health problems early,” says Martin Ryan, M.D., medical director of MetroHealth’s Buckeye Health Center. “We hope that the community will take advantage of this opportunity to come in and be screened for major health risks. Information about important health issues such as diabetes, lead poisoning, breast screening programs, nutrition, and smoking cessation also will be available.”

Screenings offered include blood pressure, BMI (body mass index), blood sugar (glucose), spirometry (breathing test for adult asthma and lung disease), hearing and vision.

The national “Take a Loved One to the Doctor” initiative supports the intent of a \$10 million, 10-year grant from the Saint Luke’s Foundation to the MetroHealth Buckeye Health Center to fight chronic diseases, such as obesity, diabetes, and asthma that disproportionately affect urban communities.

The MetroHealth System is one of the nation’s largest public health providers, ranking in the top 1% of all hospitals nationwide for quality in patient care. As the region’s only Level I adult and pediatric trauma and burn center, MetroHealth is a nationally-recognized leader in critical care and rehabilitation, community health, high-risk perinatal care, and senior health. MetroHealth offers the region’s largest urban-based network of community health centers focused on reducing health disparities through comprehensive care to vulnerable populations. MetroHealth achieved Magnet designation in 2005, the nation's highest honor for nursing excellence, and was chosen as one of the 2007 Top 100 Hospitals nationwide by Thomson Healthcare. Founded in 1837, MetroHealth has been a major affiliate of Case Western Reserve University since 1914 and all MetroHealth physicians are CWRU faculty. MetroHealth is Cleveland's tenth largest employer with more than 6,500 employees. For more information on The MetroHealth System, visit [www.metrohealth.org](http://www.metrohealth.org).