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Media Advisory

ACHI and CJA Announce 1ST Annual Conference

San Francisco, August 12, 2003: The Association for Community Health Improvement (ACHI) and Communities Joined in Action (CJA) announced their 1st Annual Joint Conference, scheduled for October 23-25 at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel in Nashville, Tenn.

With the theme, *Community Health in Challenging Times: Proven Practices, Promising Innovations*, the conference will facilitate discussion and thoughtful exchanges among community leaders in health care, public health, healthy communities and philanthropy.

Maximizing Access & Coverage, Achieving Health Equity, Securing Resources and Advocating Healthy Policy are key topics that will be highlighted. Each session will include time to share insights and questions.

"This conference offers both respected national speakers on vital community health topics, and also many specific opportunities for real interaction and learning among conference participants," said ACHI Executive Director Michael Bilton. "We need to capitalize on everyone's experiences and knowledge to advance community health effectively."

Some of the noted speakers include John Edward Hasse, NPR commentator; Marilyn Hughes Gaston, M.D., author, health advocate, former assistant surgeon general, Robert Ross, M.D, president

and CEO of The California Endowment and Joxel Garcia, M.D., MBA, deputy director of the Pan American Health Organization.

A full conference schedule is available at www.communityhlth.org.

About ACHI

The Association for Community Health Improvement is a national individual membership association for people committed to improving community health and building healthy communities. ACHI is a program of the Health Research and Educational Trust. www.communityhlth.org

About CJA

Communities Joined in Action is a private, non-profit organization working toward 100% access to health care and zero health disparities. CJA provides access to technical talent, peer-mentors and coaches who can help communities achieve these goals. www.cjaonline.net

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