



For Immediate Release

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**Polk County Health Department to hold free H1N1 clinic at
St. Mary Family Center, 1815 Hubbell in Des Moines**

DES MOINES, IA - St. Mary Family Center, Catholic Charities food and clothing pantry, will be the host site for a free H1N1 clinic sponsored by the Polk County Health Department on Wednesday, February 17 between 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at 1815 Hubbell Ave. in Des Moines.

The clinic is free and available to everyone. No appointment is necessary.

“St. Mary’s serves a large number of people each day, many of whom have transportation and other barriers that make it hard to seek out a service such as this,” said Sol Varisco, Director of Poverty Reduction Programs for Catholic Charities. “Collaborations with other community services are extremely important in helping to lift people out of poverty.”

St. Mary Family Center serves between 200-400 people each day. Food, clothing, personal care items, diapers and financial assistance are available to families in need in a safe and dignified environment.

Last year, Catholic Charities served more than 20,000 people through St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter, St. Mary Family Center, Emergency Financial Assistance, A New Beginning: Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption services, Phoenix House Domestic Violence Shelter & Sexual Abuse Program, Hispanic Community Outreach, Refugee Cooperative Services and Counseling Services.

For more information about the H1N1 clinic contact Sol Varisco at 515-237-5068 or e-mail svarisco@dmdiocese.org.

“Guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church, we serve all people in need with compassion and competence, advocate for justice, and encourage all people of good will to share in these efforts.”