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MEDIA ADVISORY

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“Real Talk” Tour Offers Sexual Health Training *Planned Parenthood to host Saturday’s event at Sara Nance Park*

(Columbia, S.C.) Planned Parenthood Health Systems, Inc., in partnership with the City of Columbia and Project HOPE, will host the first of seven “Real Talk” Tour events at Sara Nance Park on Saturday, November 15 at 1:00pm. Each tour stop combines entertainment, food and door prizes with hands-on training and educational materials so parents and teens are able make safe and responsible choices regarding sexual health. The tour events are free and open to the public.

“Parents are the best people to talk to their children about sex and responsible behavior,” says Planned Parenthood Community Health Educator Lanita Patterson. “The tour provides a first step to engage parents and teens in open communication to reduce incidents of teen pregnancy and disease.” Nationwide, one in four females age 14-19 has at least one sexually transmitted infection. South Carolina ranks 4th in the country for cases of gonorrhea and Chlamydia; 9th for HIV/AIDS. Each year, 10,000 South Carolina teens become pregnant.

The Real Talk Tour provides information about abstinence as well as contraception. “We are encouraging families to have open communications in order combat this preventable health epidemic,” says Patterson. “We have found discussing prevention opens doors to many other critical issues, such as drug use and gang violence.”

Additional tour dates in Columbia include:

- December 20, 2008- Lorick Park
- January 24, 2009- Martin Luther King Park
- February 14, 2009- Hyatt Park
- March 21, 2009- Greenview Park
- April 11, 2009- Dutch Square Mall
- May 16, 2009- Woodland Park

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Planned Parenthood Health Systems, Inc. is a private, nonprofit family planning agency that respects and protects the rights of each man and woman to make informed reproductive decisions. Our mission is to provide accessible, high-quality health care and information to clients and to serve as advocate and educator to the community on responsible human sexuality. We have offices in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. www.pphsinc.org