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LOCAL 9 HEALTH FAIR SITE SELECTED FOR RARE SCREENING

Broomfield, CO—The Broomfield United Methodist 9 Health Fair site on April 19 will be featuring a unique opportunity for Broomfield residents—**Rheumatoid Arthritis – Pilot Screening**. “As one of the only sites in Colorado to offer this opportunity, we are ecstatic,” said North Metro Fire Rescue Site Coordinator Jeff Dorrell. “This is a wonderful opportunity for our Fire District citizens and we hope people will take advantage of this brand new screening.”

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a form of arthritis that occurs when the body’s immune system attacks the joints. RA can lead to significant joint destruction and disability. Many researchers are currently working on understanding what causes RA so that it can be prevented. RA is diagnosed when someone has symptoms of pain, stiffness, and swelling in their joints. Additionally, blood tests for auto-antibodies help make the diagnosis of RA certain. Antibodies are proteins that the body usually makes to help fight infections; however, in RA, some of these antibodies attack the joints and as a result are called ‘auto-antibodies’. Recent studies have shown that auto-antibodies appear in

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the blood years prior to symptoms of RA. By identifying auto-antibodies in healthy people, we can better understand what causes RA, predict who might get arthritis in the future, and act to prevent symptoms from developing.

This pilot screening project through the Broomfield United Methodist 9 Health Fair will test the blood of healthy people participating in Fair for the presence of RA-related auto-antibodies. People who have auto-antibodies will be given the opportunity to participate in research project at the University of Colorado to learn more about what causes RA and how to prevent it.

The event will be held on April 19 from 7:00 a.m. until noon and be located at the United Methodist Church, 545 W. 10th Avenue, Broomfield. The 2008 Broomfield 9 Health Fair will only be held one day—so don't miss it!

As the United Methodist Church sponsor for the Broomfield 9 Health Fair for the last decade, North Metro Fire Rescue would like to thank all of the volunteers, including Miss Denver, Jamie Dukehart-Conti, that have come forward to assist with the 2008 event. Additional medical and non-medical volunteers are still needed. If you are interested, please call (303) 452-9910.

North Metro Fire Rescue is dedicated to your quality care. North Metro Fire Rescue provides fire protection, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response and rescue services to their community. Formed in 1946, the district now covers 115 square miles with a population of approximately 90,000 people including the City and County of Broomfield, the City of Northglenn and unincorporated areas of Boulder, Adams and Jefferson Counties.

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