

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 19, 2009

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PEOPLES HEALTH CHAMPION DR. MARVALENE HUGHES
HONORED AT SAINTS GAME

Metairie, La. - The Peoples Health Champions program honored Dr. Marvalene Hughes, its fifth champion of 2009, on Sunday, October 18 during the New Orleans Saints game against the New York Giants. A Peoples Health Champion is someone who has done something extraordinary after the age of 65 and who proves that excellence is achieved through experience.

In July of 2006, after the age of 65, Hughes honored a seemingly impossible promise to the students of Dillard University. Installed as Dillard's new president in July 2005, Hughes' promise that the 2006 graduating class would march through the stately oaks on campus might not seem extraordinary. But knowing that she made this declaration shortly after the school was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina ... while every campus building and tree was drowning under 10 feet of floodwater, you will recognize the enormity of her promise.

While thousands of New Orleans residents left their life-long home following Katrina, Hughes chose to make it her new home. Imagine, just days after moving to New Orleans and starting a new job, her school is ten feet underwater and not likely to survive.

Hughes' dedication to making a positive impact and to creating progressive, lasting contributions is what fueled her will to make her promise to the 2006 graduating class. She also is responsible for bringing the construction of two, new LEED-certified "green" buildings to the Dillard campus, to be completed in 2010.

Hughes was pleased to have fulfilled her promise. The original, stately buildings were not only rehabilitated and refreshed, but were also transformed into state-of-the-art laboratories for every academic discipline. The dead grass was replaced with new sod and incredibly, all but one oak tree survived. That single tree was replaced as a gift from the students, who dedicated that new symbol of life to their inspirational leader.

Dr. Marvalene Hughes...Peoples Health Champion.

About Peoples Health Champions

In collaboration with the New Orleans Saints, the Peoples Health Champions Program honors individuals who shatter the misconception that ability diminishes after the age of 65 and, who instead, prove that excellence is achieved through experience. Nominees must be at least 65 years of age and reside in southeast Louisiana or the Mississippi Gulf Coast. More information about the program, including details on how to nominate someone as a Peoples Health Champion, can be found on the Peoples Health Web site at www.peopleshealth.com. Nominations can be submitted online, or call (877) 712-7320 for a nomination form.

About Peoples Health

Established in 1994, Peoples Health administers Medicare benefits for 42,000 southeast Louisiana residents enrolled in the Choices 65, Choices Plus, Secure Health, HealthCare Select, and Peoples Health Group Medicare health plans. More than 450 employees work at Peoples Health corporate offices in Metairie, Louisiana and a regional office in Baton Rouge. Peoples Health is accredited by URAC, a Washington, DC-based healthcare accrediting organization. More information about Peoples Health can be obtained by visiting www.peopleshealth.com.

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