

RAM/LA

On August 11th through August 18th, Remote Area Medical will provide free medical, dental and vision care to thousands of needy individuals in the Los Angeles area. The free clinic will be held at the Forum in Inglewood, and will treat an estimated 1,200 people a day – possibly more depending on the final number of volunteers and participating organizations.

The event is being planned and will be operated by Remote Area Medical, an all volunteer 501(c)(3) charity providing free care to uninsured, underinsured and indigent individuals throughout the United States. RAM has organized and conducted 572 events to date. Visit www.ramusa.org to learn more about this organization, and click on the “60 Minutes” link to see that program’s revealing story on RAM and its work.

Free care will be provided to anyone who needs it, without cost of any kind to the patient, the taxpayer or the government. There is no income test, no insurance requirement, no restriction of any kind. Medical and non-medical personnel will all be volunteers; supplies and equipment will be donated or provided by RAM. The Forum is being made available through the generosity of the Faithful Central Bible Church, owners of the facility.

We expect there to be 100 dental stations, 45 medical exam rooms, 25 eye exam stations. Dentistry will include cleanings, extractions, fillings, restorative procedures and root canals. Prescription eye glasses will be ground and fitted on-site. Minor dermatological and other medical procedures will be performed. Pediatricians and pediatric dentists will be present. Follow-up care will be arranged for those who need it, with most referrals to private sector practices and facilities.

There will be a strong emphasis on education, prevention and self-care. Mammography, pap smears, chest x-rays, diabetes screening, blood pressure screening, and other services will be provided. Healthcare foundations and agencies will be invited to distribute patient education materials.

RAM/LA is a large undertaking, on a scale to make a significant difference in this time of great and urgent need. Success will depend on the medical and non-medical volunteers, local healthcare organizations, equipment and supply donors, and others who contribute their time, talents and resources. To date, the following organizations and agencies have volunteered to provide support:

- The Forum
- The City of Inglewood
- The County of Los Angeles (Supervisor’s Office, Public Health Department, Health and Mental Health Services, Office of Ambulatory Care, Emergency Medical Services)
- Community Clinic Association
- L.A. Care
- Tzu Chi Foundation
- Los Angeles Dental Society
- San Fernando Valley Dental Society
- Tri-County Dental Society
- West L.A. Dental Society
- Harbor Dental Society
- USC School of Dentistry

- Keck School of Medicine, USC
- Centinela Hospital
- Catholic Healthcare West
- Southern California School of Optometry
- Beach Cities Health District
- Lions Clubs
- Rogers & Cowan Public Relations

We are contacting other organizations in the area, are receiving help from church groups, equipment makers and suppliers, and, of course, from a group of hard working volunteers. Remote Area Medical will bring its own mobile units, resources and personnel.

The RAM Los Angeles event will be the first in a major population center and possibly the largest healthcare event of its kind ever. The time is right, the need is great, and RAM/LA can be an island of help and hope for the many thousands who so desperately need our assistance.