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Free Diabetic Foot Screening to Commemorate National Diabetes Awareness Month

Marrero, LA. November 3, 2008. West Jefferson Medical Center Diabetes and Foot Center is hosting a free *Diabetic Foot Care Screening* on November 11, 2008 in Suite 115 of the Physicians Office Building-South from 8:00 am – 10:00 am in observance of National Diabetes Awareness Month. The screening is open to the public.

Family Practice and Hyperbaric Medicine Physician, Dr. Paul Staab, whose practice is open to both adult and pediatric patients, will conduct the screenings. Dr. Staab said, “Diabetic patients are more prone to incurring wounds that are difficult to heal. In addition, the disease can cause nerve damage, diabetic neuropathy, often making it very difficult for the diabetic patient to be aware of a foot injury. Most of us know when we sustain harm because we feel it – that trigger is lost or less efficient in many diabetic patients. It is much easier to prevent an injury or at least find and treat it in its early stages. Awareness is the key.”

Lisa Becnel, RN and Certified Diabetic Nurse Educator, states, “We are actually holding an *Open House* on November 11 with the Foot Screening being one component. Our overall goal is to increase awareness of diabetes and the importance of keeping the condition in good control to decrease the risk for any of the complications that so often accompany the disease.” In addition to the Foot Screening, Blood Glucose Screening will also be performed. Dietitian Brooke Ritchie, RD, LDN will be on hand to answer questions. Nutritional Literature will also be available in the Diabetes Classroom in Suite 115 South of the Physicians Center. The 8-story twin tower Physicians Center office building is adjacent to the hospital.