



# Harris County Hospital District

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Birthday Bash for Oldest Strawberry Health Center Employee**

HOUSTON (August 9, 2006) – Most retirees spend their retirement enjoying their time off. After all it's what they've worked for their entire life.

But that's not the case for Willie Welch. Retirement just wasn't for her. Welch retired in 1991 after working for the Harris County Hospital District for 25 years. But just two months later, she decided to come back to work at Strawberry Health Center.

"I liked what I was doing, so I didn't mind coming back at all," Welch said, who has now been at Strawberry another 15 years. "I've fallen in love all over again with the patients."

Welch, who works three days a week, celebrates her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 24, making her the hospital district's oldest employee.

To celebrate, Strawberry Health Center staff is throwing her a surprise birthday party.

"Ms. Welch is a fabulous lady who is always upbeat," said Paul Shank, Strawberry Health Center Director. "She truly is a role model for the entire staff. She always goes out of her way for others."

**WHAT:** Willie Welch's Surprise 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party

**WHEN:** 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, August 16, 2006

**WHERE:** Strawberry Health Center, 927 Shaw Rd.

The Harris County Hospital District is the public health care system for the nation's third most populous county. It provides more than 1.1 million health care visits each year to uninsured, underinsured and medically needy residents of Harris County. The Hospital District operates Ben Taub General Hospital, Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, Quentin Mease Community Hospital, 12 community health centers, a dental center, eight school-based clinics, 13 homeless shelter clinics and four mobile health units.

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