



**DALLAS COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION**

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**For Immediate Release – August 7, 2008**

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**Dallas County Health and Human Services Receives Additional Grant Awards to Purchase and Install Air Conditioning Units**

August 7, 2008 – The Harold Simmons Foundation, Cynthia K. Engles Advised Fund of The Dallas Foundation, an anonymous fund of The Dallas Foundation, and Communities Foundation of Texas have provided funds to Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) to purchase and install air conditioning units in the homes of Dallas County residents considered at high risk of heat-related illnesses, including the elderly. The donors join the Meadows Foundation, who earlier this week, provided the agency with a grant.

“Dallas County Health and Human Services is grateful to these donors who have generously provided much needed funding to help our elderly residents have a healthier, cooler summer,” said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS Director. “The need for chilled air in the homes of those most at-risk of developing heat-related illnesses is a far greater problem than most people realize,” Thompson continued. “With the extreme temperatures we’ve experienced this summer, air conditioners are not luxuries, but life savers.”

During the Heat Wave of 2006, The Meadows Foundation, The Dallas Foundation, and Communities Foundation of Texas collaborated to provide funding to DCHHS to purchase and install almost 1,000 air conditioning units in the homes of elderly, disabled and low-income residents of Dallas County.

Dallas County Health and Human Services has a heat emergency hotline **ONLY FOR PERSONS WITHOUT A WORKING AIR CONDITIONING UNIT IN THEIR HOMES.** The hotline also accepts calls for the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program that offers help to low-income families in paying their energy bills. Both programs can be reached through the heat hotline at 214-819-6001.

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*Photo included*



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***Photo caption: Dallas County Health and Human Services receives grant awards to purchase and install air conditioners (left to right): Zachary Thompson, Director, Dallas County Health and Human Services Director with Bruce H. Esterline, Vice President for Grants, The Meadows Foundation.***