

## **MEDIA ALERT - For Immediate Release – Open to the Public**

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### **Hot Health Care Debate Fires Up in Fox Valley**

#### **Walk and Rally for Reform**

**Event:** Join ESTHER in a walk and rally in Appleton to support of quality health care that is affordable and accessible to all. The walk will begin at Harmony Café and end at the Thompson Center where participants will join with additional community members, religious leaders, elected officials, and medical professionals in a rally for health care reform. This event will precede a larger event in Washington DC, where members of ESTHER will join thousands calling for health care reform in 2009. In case of rain, the event will take place inside of the Thompson Center. This event is open to the public

**Date:** Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Time:** Walk begins at 5:30 pm; Rally begins at 6:00 pm

**Where:** Walk will start at Harmony Café (233 E College Avenue, Appleton) and conclude with a rally at the Thompson Center (820 W College Avenue, Appleton).

The high rising cost of health care coupled with increased employment lay-offs has brought the health care debate to the forefront in the Fox Valley. Local faith communities have come together through the nonprofit organization, ESTHER to challenge the current system that has left 47 million Americans without insurance.

President Obama has signaled that health care reform will be addressed this year. As a result, members of ESTHER will join thousands from across the country on June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> in an interfaith gathering in Washington DC. Participants attending the rally in DC aim to call attention to the historic decision to bring affordable and accessible health care to all. While, the Obama administration has not released a health care plan, health care advocates say that this move will give them time to help shape the components of the yet-to-be released plan.

ESTHER supports the following principles of affordable and accessible quality health care;

- Health care coverage should be guaranteed to everyone living in the United States with a choice of public or private health insurance plan
- Health care should be affordable and accessible to all, with special consideration for low income individuals and families
- Health care should be cost-effective and sustainable for society
- Health care should be of high quality for everyone with a choice of doctors and hospitals
- Health care coverage should be continuous, regardless of employment status or pre-existing condition
- Health care coverage should be comprehensive, meeting needs from chronic to preventative care

For additional information see our website: [www.esther-foxvalley.org](http://www.esther-foxvalley.org)

**This event is sponsored by ESTHER.**