

**ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITY CELEBRATES  
SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION'S  
12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GATHERING**

**(Anchorage, AK)** – Southcentral Foundation (SCF) welcomes Anchorage and the state of Alaska to embrace both healthy lifestyles and cultural traditions at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering, Saturday, January 24, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center. SCF, the Cook Inlet Region, Inc. family and dozens of local community organizations bring to life this year's theme, "Celebrating Family Wellness."

Approximately 2,500 people participated in the Gathering in 2008. This year, with over 120 booths and activities, every family member will find something of interest at the Gathering. Participants can learn about the health and wellness programs offered by Southcentral Foundation, stop by the Blood Bank of Alaska's Blood Mobile to donate blood, and people of all ages can enjoy the face painting and educational activities. Native artists will have tables where you can find the perfect Valentines Day gift. Native entertainment will be scheduled throughout the day, participants will have the opportunities to win prizes and take a carriage ride through downtown (weather permitting).

Admission is free! The Gathering will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 24, at the Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center in Anchorage. Information is available at (907) 729-4953. Southcentral Foundation: customer-driven, customer-focused.

###

Established in 1982, SCF's mission is to work together with the Native Community to achieve wellness through health and related services. The non-profit health care affiliate of CIRI, SCF has grown in its 26 years, from a single dental clinic to an internationally recognized, award-winning health care organization that employs more than 1,350 people and administers a budget of more than \$181 million annually to manage more than 60 health care programs and services.