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# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **The Clark County Health District and Vons Open New Clinic**

(Las Vegas, Nev. – August 14, 2000) – Vons and the Clark County Health District held a grand opening today for the newest location of a Women, Infants and Children’s Food Supplement Program (WIC) Clinic and Smart\$hop Program, setting a benchmark for public/private community partnerships. The new clinic is located inside the Vons store at 1061 W. Owens Avenue.

When the Health District’s WIC clinic that served this neighborhood faced closure, Vons agreed to provide an important community service by hosting a location inside its store. This collaboration marks the first time a grocery store has offered its site as a location for the types of services provided by the clinic.

“We are proud to be a partner with the Health District and support these very important programs,” said Tom Keller, president of Vons. “We hope this additional service will provide more convenience to community residents who utilize these services.”

In celebration of the new partnership, Vons also donated approximately 1,000 packages of diapers for distribution to WIC and Smart\$hop clients. While WIC provides nutrition education and food vouchers to clients each month, the Smart\$hop

program targets pregnant women and first time foodstamp recipients in areas where low birth weight rates are among the highest. Smart\$hop personnel then provide hands-on life skill training to help prevent families from running out of food by the end of the month.

Dr. Kwalick, chief health officer for the District praised the new partnership by stating, "Vons has responded to the needs of the community with this generous donation of office space. By doing so they are not only giving back to this neighborhood, they are helping the Health District to further our vision of expanding the reach of our services. It is through innovative partnerships such as this one, that we will be able to meet our goals."

Vons, a division of Safeway Inc., operates 325 stores in California and Nevada, with 21 stores in the Las Vegas Valley. Each year, as part of its community giving program, Vons provides support to local non-profit and charitable organizations in support of building stronger communities in the areas it serves.

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