## Tomball Regional Health Foundation Partners with TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries to Open Dental Program

TOMBALL, Texas – October 15, 2012 – The Tomball Regional Health Foundation (TRHF) today announced it has signed an affiliation agreement with TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries to open a dental program at TOMAGWA's Tomball, Texas clinic. The program will serve the Tomball, Magnolia, Waller and surrounding communities, creating healthier communities through high-quality, direct patient dental care and health education for low-income, uninsured children and adults.

"Tomball Regional Health Foundation's vision is to become a catalyst for measurable health and wellness improvements in Tomball and the surrounding communities. Our partnership with TOMAGWA and the launch of this dental program is an example of how we will advance this goal," said Jack Smith, Chairman of the Board of the Tomball Regional Health Foundation. "Our community health needs assessment revealed that dentistry and support for the uninsured were among the areas in greatest need of improvement. We are pleased that this new program will directly address these needs, enhancing dental care for the local population."

"We are grateful to receive this funding from the Tomball Regional Health Foundation and we look forward to working with TRHF to provide quality dental care to the community," said Judy Deyo, Executive Director of TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries. "TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries does not receive government or United Way funding, thus, we rely on the financial donations of individuals, foundations and corporations such as TRHF in order to provide the uninsured in our community with access to otherwise unattainable health and dental care and prevent the escalation of health problems."

TOMAGWA will operate the dental program, which will offer services such as routine checkups, cleanings, fillings, and extractions. Services will be provided by a contracted dentist and volunteer dentists from the community. The dental program is scheduled to begin on January 1, 2013, and will house four dental chairs that will be able to accommodate up to 2,600 dental visits a year. TRHF has agreed to provide up to \$475,000 to fund start-up and operational costs for up to two years. Capital purchases will include x-ray equipment and digital imaging capabilities, as well as electronic dental record systems.

TRHF will continue to promote wellness and improve the health status for local residents by creating the right partnerships and joint ventures to enhance access to health care, preventative care and health education.

## **About Tomball Regional Health Foundation**

Tomball Regional Health Foundation (TRHF) is the new name of the Tomball Hospital Authority (THA). The THA was the owner and operator of the Tomball Regional Medical Center from its founding in 1976 up until its sale in 2011. Please visit the new TRHF website at trhfoundation.org for more information regarding the foundation and its mission.

## **About TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries:**

TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries is a non-profit 501(c) (3) primary care medical clinic. Our vision is to offer exceptional health care to the growing number of low-income, uninsured men, women, and children who do not qualify for Medicare or Medicaid. The clinic treats the whole person physically,

mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, regardless of a person's age, gender, ethnicity or religious affiliation. The clinic provides residents of southwest Montgomery, southeast Waller and northwest Harris counties with access to early intervention for potentially fatal conditions and proper care for chronic illness, as well as immunizations, wellness exams and other routine medical care, all at costs far below those incurred by emergency rooms for indigent care.

##

## **For More Information Contact:**

Marilyn Kinyo, Tomball Regional Health Foundation marilyn.kinyo@comcast.net / 281-733-9401

Judy Deyo, TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries judyd@tomagwa.org / 832-559-5223