Music in background

Lisa Badgley, Corporate Operations VP: We’re at 67th and Stoney Island on the South Side of Chicago and we’re here to celebrate the grand opening of one of our food desert stores and this is just one more way for us to reach out and provide a healthy solution for our customers.

John Grant, Market Vice President: Walgreens has taken great pride in meeting the needs of Chicago communities since opening its first store on the South Side 109 years ago. We are thrilled to be stepping up once again to support our neighbors.

Leslie Hairston, Alderman: We have been trying for years to change the way that people live in the city of Chicago and we can’t talk about healthy communities and we cannot talk about health families without talking about healthy food.

Bridget James, Store Manager: We’re starting to introduce fresh fruit, produce to the community.

Customer: I live right down the street and having a store like this Walgreens in the area is really super.

Customer 2: They have great vegetables and fruit for cheap prices. I could just bring them home to my kids.

Mayor Daley: As Walgreens has pointed out, food deserts not only happen in Chicago but throughout the country. That is what’s happening. They look at what they can do to make a difference.

Customer 3: Walgreens is a real good place and they have a lot of really good deals. I spent $130 and got a lot of stuff. Baby food, they have Enfamil for my son right here. They’re good, they got everything you need at Walgreens.

Rafael Malpica, Community Affairs Manager: Some communities don’t have a grocery store or anything to get fresh fruits and vegetables within a 2, 3, 4, 5 mile radius for that community, hypertension and diabetes are a big problem.

Doug Banks, Nationally Syndicated Radio Host: This is one of ten Walgreens that has actually taken the initiative to go ahead and do something for us who suffer from diabetes. I say us because I have been a diabetic sufferer for over 20 years.

I just think what a great idea for if you are a diabetic to be able to walk into a drug store and not only be able to get your meds, get your education about diabetes but to know that you can come into the store and get food that is going to help your diabetes.
Dean Harrison, President and CEO, Northwestern Memorial Hospital: Today our diabetes collaborative with Near North Services at Walgreens is helping patients successfully manage their diabetes. Together we’re bringing the ingredients for a healthier life.

Dr. Daniel Derman, V.P. of Operations, Northwestern Memorial Hospital: If we get to a diabetic when a leg needs to be cut off or when they are in kidney failure or when they are in heart disease it’s too late. What we want to do is get to people early in the cycle and if we could change their exercise habits, their diet habits, we could reverse the disease in some cases and in worst case scenario keep it in check. And if you were to walk back to the pharmacy today, you would get his pamphlet that has all kinds of vital information for a diabetic.

At first I thought it was only a drug store not a one stop shop bring a lot of nutrients to the neighborhood. The kids eat a lot of junk and it’s nice to get something healthy for a change.

Donald Whetstone, Senior Director, New Format Development and Innovation: It really closes the whole health loop. To get the patient coming from the hospital and coming into our store not only for prescriptions but now for food, wow, it’s all coming together.

Customer 4: This is truly a blessing sweetheart because it’s such a convenience.

Employee 1: It’s kind of like investing in your community and when you invest in your community you absolutely get the best from your people. They begin to think that we care about the community.

Mayor Daley: This whole thing about fresh markets for me, it’s really exciting. I would like to thank Walgreens, the Board of Directors, everyone. They’re very responsive. They took the idea, listened to me. They’re making a difference in the community. No matter where you go, there’s a Walgreens and people go to it. It’s their home pharmacy now it’s their home grocery store. I like that.

Doug Banks, Nationally Syndicated Radio Host: Take a look and see what’s in this store and see what makes this store so great. Let’s all have lunch today at Walgreens.