



# PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **FEDERAL GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS**

**Columbia, South Carolina** ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that a Federal Grand Jury in Columbia, South Carolina, returned Indictment(s) against the following:

### **Management of Helping Hands "Charity" Indicted on Health Care Fraud.**

Truman Lewis, Melanie Lewis, and Norman Lewis were charged in a six count Indictment with Conspiracy to Commit Health Care Fraud, Wire Fraud and Money Laundering, violations of Title 18, United States Code, § 1343, 1349, and 1956. Per the indictment Helping Hands submitted over \$8.9 million dollars in billing to Medicaid from January 2009 to October 2010, spending the proceeds on luxury automobiles, a beach condominium, two residences, and had approximately \$1.2 million dollars in bank accounts and certificates of deposit. Much of the submitted

\$8.9 million dollars were for services not provided, only partially provided, and services that did not qualify for reimbursements under the Medicaid program. The maximum penalty for Truman Lewis, Melanie Lewis, and Norman Lewis is 20 years imprisonment. Agents of the Health and Human Services and Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigations investigated the case; and the case is currently assigned to Assistant United States Attorneys Winston Holliday and Jim May of the Columbia office for prosecution.

The United States Attorney stated that all charges in this Indictment is merely accusations and that all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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