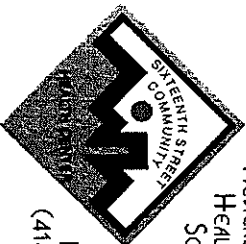


Medical Services
Health & Nutrition Education
Social Services & WIC



1032 South 16th Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204
(414) 672-1353

SIXTEENTH STREET COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 18, 1994**

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
JOHN BARTKOWSKI
672-1353**

**SHALALA AND OTHER STATE OFFICIALS TO ATTEND
GRAND OPENING OF SIXTEENTH STREET COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**



**MILWAUKEE HEALTH CARE CENTER DRAWS NATIONAL
SPOTLIGHT FOR INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS**

MILWAUKEE -- United States Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala will be one of several government officials attending the grand opening of the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center's new \$2 million addition.

The Center has become a national model for health care reform initiatives because of its innovative approach to primary care in central city neighborhoods, its research projects which focus on health problems unique to the inner city, health education programs for patients and training programs for medical professionals.

The grand opening will take place at 10 a.m. on March 29 at the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center, 1032 S. 16th St. Other officials in attendance will include: Congressmen Jerry Kiecicka and Tom Barrett, United States Senators Herb Kohl and Russell Feingold, State Senator Brian Burke, Assembly Speaker Walter Kurnicki, Milwaukee County Executive F. Thomas Arment and Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist. Local business leaders also will be in attendance.

The Sixteenth Street Community Health Center celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, and provides more than 50,000 patient visits each year. John Bartkowski, Chief Executive Officer, says "The expansion will allow the Center's staff to serve 30 percent more patients each year which is in response to the growing needs of the ethnic neighborhoods it serves."

-MORE-

The Center currently has about 100 employees including physicians, nurses, social workers, dietitians and other health care professionals. Services include primary health care, health education programs including parenting and prenatal classes, risk assessment, and counseling for domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and other health-related problems.

The Center is currently involved in several community based research projects which is unique for health centers. These projects include a \$500,000 federal study of drug and alcohol counseling to pregnant mothers, and an EPA-funded environmental justice study regarding the effects of multiple toxic exposures on children and families in urban neighborhoods.

In addition, the Center's staff recently completed a study on health status and health care access for Hispanics in Milwaukee which was funded by local hospitals and HMOs, as well as State funds. This study was unique because the results were broken down according to nationality, to evaluate differences between Puerto Rican, Mexican and other Hispanic groups.

The Sixteenth Street Community Health Center also operates a school-based clinic at South Division High School to provide primary health care access at a convenient location for high school students.

-##-