



COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE

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**US Senator Herb Kohl to Join the Celebration
Renovation of Sixteenth Street's Chavez Health Center**

Friday, April 9, 2010 - 10:00 a.m.
1032 S. Cesar E. Chavez Drive
Second Floor Conference Room

Sixteenth Street Community Health Center salutes US Senator Herb Kohl, US Representative Gwen Moore, Northwestern Mutual and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation for their support of a major renovation of their Chavez Community Health Center.

The project created 16 new, larger, uniformly designed exam rooms and efficient staff work areas out of space that had previously been used for storage of paper medical records and 13 smaller, outdated exam rooms. The net gain of more rooms and more efficient space allows for two additional medical provider teams to practice at the clinic. These providers will be able to care for as many as 3,600 patients.

According to John Bartkowski, DrPH, President and CEO the \$750,000 project not only resulted in additional capacity to serve patients, but came at a time when the agency could leverage health center capital improvement dollars from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

“We squeezed every dime, Bartkowski said. The new exam rooms and staff work areas help us to be more efficient, and we calculate a return on investment of only about three years due to that. The ARRA funds helped us do many things large and small that we wouldn't have been able to afford otherwise.”

Examples of ARRA funded projects include HVAC upgrades, improvements in the lower level pediatric clinic including the replacement of “screen time” art with sports and active living art, repairing/repaving the parking lot (nine additional parking spaces!) and creating a wireless environment for our electronic health records system.

The Chavez Health Center has been home to Sixteenth Street since 1971. The original building was constructed in 1911. Sixteenth Street Community Health Center provides high quality community based health care, health education and social services for low-income residents of Milwaukee's culturally diverse south side, free from linguistic, cultural or financial barriers.

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