



Greetings from Delta Health Center, Incorporated **(The Oldest Community Health Center in the Nation)**

First founded as a demonstration project by the Office of Economic Opportunity in 1965, the Delta Health Center (DHC) is in its fortieth year of serving Delta residents. It is the only comprehensive community health center in the service area, which includes Bolivar, Sunflower, and Washington Counties. However, anyone who walks through our doors will be served.

DHC initially provided a variety of services ranging from community health services to teaching residents how to supply safe drinking water, participation in cooperative farming, the promotion of balanced nutrition, and the acquisition of comprehensive health care services.

Delta Health Center has evolved and currently provides comprehensive medical care, dental care, and home health care. These services are provided by six (6) physicians, one (1) full-time and one (1) part-time dentist, two (2) nurse practitioners, nineteen (19) registered nurses, fourteen (14) licensed practical nurses, two (2) certified nurse's assistants, and a very large support staff. With a vision to become a "one-stop shopping center" for those in need of quality healthcare, DHC complements its primary care services with the following: Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Certification, Early Screening Periodic Diagnostic Treatment (EPSDT), Family Planning Services, a Meharry Consortium Rural Interdisciplinary Training Project (MCRIT) sponsored by the Center on Aging at Meharry Medical School, an HIV/AIDS Screening and Treatment Program, a Perinatal High Risk Management/Infant Services (PHRMIS) Program, as well as limited transportation services, and several cooperative studies on diseases prevalent to the Delta Area such as Cancer, Diabetes, Hypertension, etc. Our past involvement in a SCRIPT Tobacco Study provided various cessation alternatives to our smoking patients, while assisting in our efforts to convince others not to start. Laboratory Services, X-Ray Services, Pharmacy Services, and Social Services are also offered to our patients. Also, a full-time Chiropractor and part-time Podiatrist were added to our list of service providers. Although the services offered are not of the magnitude we would like, we have come a long way toward improving the conditions that existed when Delta Health Center first opened its doors.

The main site is located in Mound Bayou, Bolivar County, Mississippi, with satellite clinics in Greenville, MS and Moorhead, MS. Also, DHC operates a Pediatric Clinic in Greenville to provide services to a rising number of pediatric patients. DHC, in its efforts to improve medical care to women during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, and to focus special attention on diseases prevalent to women, on January 10, 2005, employed the services of Dr. Maria M. Moman, OB/GYN, and on March 1, 2007, employed Dr. Nobel Attipoe, OB/GYN, for the Mound Bayou site. A former OB/GYN, Dr. Benny Wright, delivered the first baby for DHC in almost 20 years on July 10, 2002. Plans are underway to expand OB/GYN services to other areas.

The service area has a population in excess of 150,000 individuals with an average of thirty-seven percent (37%) to forty percent (40%) of the individuals living below the poverty level. The high rate of unemployment is the single most significant factor to the poverty level in the DHC service area. To ensure continuity of care, DHC has an after-hours answering service to provide physician availability to patients. When hospitalization is necessary, DHC physicians have privileges at Bolivar Medical Center, Cleveland, MS; and Delta Regional Medical Center in Greenville, Washington County, Mississippi.

Through the efforts of many men and women, vital indicators such as infant mortality and morbidity have greatly improved. Our theme for the 2002 Thirty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration, "Remembering, Restoring, Realigning, and Reinvesting In Quality Health Care" strengthens our commitment to achieve the World Health Organization's definition of health, which highlights the basic quality of life issues: freedom from hunger, poverty, and pain. DHC's basic foundation for existence can be credited to such grassroots heroes as Dr. H. Jack Geiger, Dr. Robert Smith, Dr. Count Dillon Gibson, Jr., Dr. Andrew James, Dr. John Hatch, Dr. L.C. Dorsey, Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, Dr. Matthew Walker, and a host of others. Now, we must go boldly forward to carry out our purpose, which is to provide quality, comprehensive health care services to residents of Bolivar, Sunflower, and Washington Counties. **Access to quality health care is not a privilege, but a right!**