

## The Charles B. Wang Community Health Center History:

1971

A group of volunteers organized the Chinatown Health Fair, the first health fair ever held in Chinatown. Following the tremendous community response to the 10-day event, the volunteers worked together to establish a program that could meet the community's needs for affordable and accessible healthcare services. Known then as the Chinatown Health Clinic, the Center opened its doors to the community in the fall of 1971, operating out of space donated by the Episcopal Church of our Savior located at 48 Henry Street. During the next six years, volunteer doctors, nurses, social workers, students and others provided free services two evenings each week and on Sunday afternoons.

1975

Project AHEAD, a community health careers program for Asian American students, was initiated to encourage more community youth to pursue careers in healthcare.

1979

The Center received recognition as a federally qualified community health center as well as section 330 funding from the Public Health Service under the Urban Health Initiative Program. The 330 grant enables the Health Center to offer a sliding fee scale based on income to uninsured patients who qualify for the program.

1982

More than 12,000 people from Chinatown protested the building of a new correctional facility located in Chinatown. To mitigate this impact, the City of New York donated land located at 125 Walker Street to a coalition of Chinatown agencies for community use.

1983

The Center established a prenatal program with New York Infirmery/Beekman Downtown Hospital offering low-cost obstetrical care to pregnant Chinese women. After one year, the Center's prenatal program was responsible for having the highest number of births in comparison to other communities in Manhattan.

1986

The Center's hypertension control program funded by the New York State Department of Health was recognized with an award for excellence by the Community Health Care Association of New York State.

1987

The first Good Health Day, an annual outdoor health promotion event, was held in the summer of 1987 in Chinatown.

1988

The first Chinatown AIDS Conference, a joint community effort co-sponsored by the Center with several agencies and hospitals, was funded with \$10,000 from Chinatown business owners.

1991

The Center's 20th anniversary fundraising banquet kicks off a capital campaign for the renovation of 125 Walker Street.

1992

A radiothon organized by Sinocast Radio raised \$330,000 for the renovation of 125 Walker Street.

1994

The Center moved into new quarters at 125 Walker Street in July 1994. From 1994-2002, the Center offered internal medicine, pediatrics, dental services, women's health, social work, and health education services at this location. The new space doubled the Center's capacity and provided a more comparable patient care setting. The annual patient population catapulted from 2,000 in the early years to more than 18,000, comprising more than 80,000 medical and dental visits.

1995

The [Chinatown Health Clinic Foundation](#) was established to raise funds on behalf of the Center's programs and to support other community based healthcare services. The Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services recognizes the Center for its outstanding community health promotion programs - the sole recipient of this award in New York City.

1997

The Center established a health center in Flushing to provide primary health care for the growing Asian American community in Queens County including a growing Korean-American community.

1999

The Center initiated a project to expand its services in Manhattan's Chinatown in response to the dramatic population increase in the Asian American community in New York City during the past decade. Through the generosity of many individual and corporate supports, the Center was able to raise enough funds to renovate three floors of a building located on Canal Street, the main thoroughfare in Chinatown. In recognition of a major donor, the Center changed its name from Chinatown Health Clinic to the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center.

2000

The Asian American community in New York City increased by more than 54% since 1990. Census data shows that more than 40% of elderly and 35% of children in Chinatown are living in poverty.

2001

In response to the September 11 tragedy, the Center establishes the Chinatown Health Partnership. Supported by the September 11 Fund and the New York Community Trust, the Partnership offers low cost health care services to individuals affected by the tragedy.

2002

The Center dedicated its new facility at 268 Canal Street and expanded its pediatric services at the Flushing site.

2003

The Center provided more than 115,000 patients visits. Today, more than 250 full- and part-time bilingual and bicultural staff provides a wide array of medical and behavioral health services to more than 24,000 patients regardless of their ability to pay. The Center, with the support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, convenes the East Coast Regional Conference on SARS. The Center also collaborates with New York University School of Medicine to establish the Center for the Study of Asian American Health, the only research and training center in the US dedicated to eliminating Asian American health disparities. The project receives a five year grant from the National Institutes of Health.

2004

The Health Center establishes the Health Disparities Training Program to train medical and graduate students to conduct research on Asian American health. The project is part of the Center for Study of Asian American Health, sponsored the New York School of Medicine.

2005

The Health Center helped to launch the city-wide Asian American Hepatitis B Coalition with a grant from the New York City Council. The Coalition provides no-cost screening, education and vaccination for Hepatitis B to uninsured New Yorkers.

2006

The Health Center established an electronic health records system to improve quality of care. More than 200 employees at all levels of the organization were trained to be fully functional in using this new technology.

2007

The Health Center Launched a classroom and work-based health careers training and scholarship program for frontline staff. The Health Center established METCHIT, a Health Center Controlled Network to collaborate on Health Information Technology, with three other FQHCs.

2008

The Health Center initiated the medical home project to improve quality of care and the patient care experience.

2009

The Health Center was awarded a major grant from the Kellogg Foundation for the Steps to the Right Start! Program. The funding is to support the Health Center to enhance the opportunity for healthy child development and school readiness for vulnerable Chinese and Asian American families in New York City. The Health Center also expanded its training and conference center capabilities.