



The History of PEAK VISTA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

Mission: "To Provide Exceptional Healthcare for People Facing Access Barriers"

Peak Vista Community Health Centers began in 1971 as the Free Clinic of Colorado Springs. It was open two evenings a week at 722 South Wahsatch for walk-in patients, and was operated by volunteer physicians and nurses. The clinic hired its first full time staff and moved to a full time clinic in 1975 and in 1976 it received Federal funding through the Bureau of Primary Health Care. Between 1971 and today, the organization has also been known as the El Pomar Community Health Centers, Community Health Centers, Inc. and today, Peak Vista Community Health Centers.

Key Dates in Peak Vista Community Health Centers' History:

- 1971 began operation staffed completely with volunteers
- 1973 became Community Health Centers
- 1976 received first federal grant
- 1983 began receiving United Way funding
- 1984 began seeing dental patients with staffing from the Colorado Springs Dental Society
- 1986 began Volunteer Physician Referral Program
- 1988 began receiving El Pomar Foundation funding, and changed name to El Pomar Community Health Center
- 1988 Homeless Health Center opens as the Sierra Madre Clinic with Federal funding
- 1989 opened International Circle site with Family Health, Women's Health, pharmacy, lab, well child waiting area and administration.
- 1993 changed name to Community Health Centers/expanded services to Homeless
- 1994 Dental Program becomes training site for University of Colorado School of Dentistry, the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry, Pueblo Community College Dental Hygiene Program, and the Pikes Peak Community College Dental Assisting Program
- 1995 became the first community health center in the state of Colorado to receive accreditation through the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO)
- 1997 opened Teller County Health Center in Woodland Park three evenings per week. Expanded to five evenings in 1998.
- 1999 moved Woodland Park Clinic to Divide and changed name to Divide Health Clinic
- 2001 opened Senior Health Clinic and Pediatric Health Clinic
- 2002 opened Southern Teller County Health Clinic in Cripple Creek and relocated Dental Health Clinic to International Circle location
- 2002 Divide Health Clinic is named "Non-Profit of the Year" by Woodland Park Chamber of Commerce
- 2003 opened the remodeled Women's Health Clinic at Printers Parkway
- 2003 Community Health Centers, Inc. adopted FIRST VISITOR, and began contracting for Medicaid's EPSDT program for El Paso County
- 2004 CHCs, Inc. changed name to Peak Vista Community Health Centers
- 2004 Received Diversity Award from the Pikes Peak Coalition of Chambers
- 2005 Peak Vista added a Senior Health Center to the north and adopted Second Sight Vision Services
- 2005 Became accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. (AAAH)
- 2005 Broke ground, adjacent to the post office, on new Divide Health Center
- 2005 Received El Pomar Award for Excellence in large health care category
- 2005 Acquired Fountain Health Center providing medical and dental care for families
- 2005 Opened Peak Vista's first school-based clinic in Harrison School District
- 2005 Held inaugural "Breakfast of Champions" fundraiser

- 2005 Established the Peak Vista Community Health Centers Foundation
- 2006 Expanded Fountain Health Center to include medical, dental and behavioral health to all ages
- 2006 Built new Divide Health Center to better serve all of Teller County
- 2006 Transitioned entire system to Electronic Health Records
- 2006 Signed agreement for a Family Health Center at Myron Stratton Home
- 2006 Received significant funds from Amendment 35 for patient services
- 2006 Purchased a 34,000 square foot building at 225 South Union to expand scope of Family Health, Pharmacy, Laboratory, Registration and Well Child Waiting services
- 2006 Honored as Non-Profit of the Year by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- 2006 Awarded Project Status in the El Paso County Enterprise Zone
- 2007 Approved strategic Master Space Plan in January to set the course for Peak Vista's facility utilization and future needs;
- 2007 Included as a partner in the new Myron Stratton Consortium. With a \$1.5 million donation from the Myron Stratton Foundation to renovate an existing structure on their property, we opened the beautiful new Family Health Center at Myron Stratton in July;
- 2007 Enhanced partnership with Salvation Army that set in motion the 2008 relocation of Peak Vista's Homeless Health Center to the New Hope Center.
- 2007 Expanded hours at Peak Vista's Harrison School District 2 Entrada school-based health center.
- 2007 Established a designated Outreach Department to support Peak Vista's focus on working effectively with community agencies and helping individual patients navigate health care systems and processes;
- 2007 Signed an agreement with Rocky Vista University under which Peak Vista's providers will serve as preceptors for medical students and residents starting in 2010;
- 2007 Hosted third annual Breakfast of Champions, featuring Jackie Joyner-Kersey and honoring Dr. Thomas Theune as 2007 Champions of Community Health.
- 2007 Enhanced scope of the Peak Vista Community Health Centers Foundation. Only in its second year of operation, the Foundation was instrumental in establishing an endowment fund with \$50,000 in seed money, establishing a planned giving program, completing a planning study for our first capital campaign, and facilitating the donation of radiology equipment for the future development of on-site radiology services as space becomes available;
- 2007 Increased recognition and support of Peak Vista by the community through being named the beneficiary of the Scott Building and Gerald Phipps Construction golf tournaments; and
- 2007 Received recognition of Peak Vista's leadership credibility through CEO involvement on the 208 Commission Provider Task Force, the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and recognition as the S. Jerrard Smith Award recipient.
- 2007 Debuted the Refugee Clinic, located at Peak Vista's Myron Stratton Home.
- 2008 Opened Family Health Center at 225 South Union.
- 2008 Launched new website to better communicate with patients and partners.
- 2008 Received re-certification from the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc.
- 2008 BJ Scott, President and CEO, received the Executive of the Year award from the Pikes Peak Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals.
- 2008 Governor signed an Executive Order nominating BJ Scott to serve as a member of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education from the 5th Congressional District.
- 2008 Contracted with HCPF to provide Medicaid and CHP+ determinations through Colorado's second Medicaid Application Site.
- 2008 In collaboration many partners including Infectious Disease Specialists, SCAP and public health, established the Collaborative Clinic at Union for the diagnosis and treatment of patients with HIV/AIDS.
- 2008 Hosted fourth annual Breakfast of Champions featuring Picabo Street keynote and honored the Myron Stratton Home as 2008 Champion of Community Health.

- 2008 Continue to grow the Peak Vista Community Health Centers Foundation, now in its third year and prepared to launch a capital campaign to equip and renovate healthcare facilities.
- 2008 Established a Reach Out and Read Program, where physicians at our Pediatric Health Center give children with well child appointments a new book.
- 2009 Opened Cripple Creek-Victor Mountain Health Center, school-based health center, in Cripple Creek.
- 2009 Debuted Ronald McDonald Care Mobile in partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado.

For more information about Peak Vista Community Health Centers, contact Lynn Pelz, Director of External Relations: (719) 228-6606 or visit our website at www.peakvista.org. **Donation opportunities are available online for your convenience.**