

## **Port Chester High School Students Board the Bus to Albany for School-Based Health Center Advocacy Day**

On Tuesday, February 8, students from Port Chester High School will board a bus for Albany to participate in School-Based Health Center (SBHC) Advocacy Day in conjunction with the New York State Coalition for School-Based Health Centers. The students who are all enrolled in Open Door Family Medical Centers' School-Based Health Center program are scheduled to meet with Senator Suzi Oppenheimer and Assemblyman George Latimer during the day. They will also have the opportunity to speak about the impact the SBHC has had on their own lives during the Student Open Mic & Legislator Awards Ceremony.

Many of the students attending Advocacy Day have been in the program since its launch at the Edison Elementary School in October 2004. Since then SBHC's have been opened at the JFK Magnet School, Park Avenue School, Port Chester Middle School and Port Chester High School.

### **About School-Based Health Centers**

SBHCs are doctor's offices in the schools that provide primary health care services where the students are and when they need it. With parents' permission, the SBHCs provide primary health care services such as physicals, immunizations, wellness visits, chronic disease management, hearing, vision and mental health screenings. The Centers help students and their families manage significant health concerns, like asthma and obesity before they lead to bigger problems.

All students are eligible to receive health care services at the SBHCs and are required to have parental consent to enroll. The SBHCs work cooperatively with the schools collaborating on issues affecting children in and out of the classroom in an effort to ensure their personal and academic successes. The goal of the school-based health center is to keep children healthy and in school.

### **About Open Door Family Medical Centers**

Open Door has received the highest Recognition as a Patient-Centered Medical Home™ (PPC-PCMH™) from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). This ranking distinguishes them from medical practices across the nation as less than 12% are presently eligible to achieve this advanced standing. For 39 years, the federally qualified community health center has served a multi-cultural community and has provided top quality medical, dental care and social services to the Westchester community, particularly the economically disadvantaged. Open Door has four centers in Westchester located in Ossining, Port Chester, Mt. Kisco and Sleepy Hollow. In addition, Open Door operates five school-based health centers in Port Chester at The Edison Elementary School, Park Avenue School, Kennedy Magnet School, Port Chester Middle School and Port Chester High School. In 2009, approximately 40,000 patients were treated at Open Door, making nearly 170,000 patient visits. Over 13,483 children were treated during that same year. Funding for Open Door Family Medical Centers comes from local, state and federal grants as well as private foundations and individuals.



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