

OPEN DOOR RECOGNIZES FIFTEEN PORT CHESTER TEENS AT FUTURE HEALTH LEADERS GRADUATION CEREMONY

Fifteen Port Chester High School students will be joined by Open Door Family Medical Centers and the 21st Visions Program from Port Chester High School (www.opendoormedical.org), family, friends and community partners on Thursday, July 29 to celebrate their completion of the **Future Health Leaders Program**. The four-week summer intensive, developed by Open Door in partnership with Port Chester High School, introduced students to a broad range of health care providers and health topics through on-site visits at Open Door, local hospitals and other health care facilities. As part of the ceremony on Thursday the students, who were selectively chosen based on teacher recommendations and personal motivation, will each present an outline of the healthcare career they wish to pursue.

Through this innovative program the young **Future Healthcare Leaders** have become well-versed in a variety of health-related topics including basic medical training, nutrition, exercise, adolescent medicine and mental health. The students were also certified in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), taught how to take vital signs and provide first aid medical care. The students demonstrated their understanding of what they had learned by presenting a summer safety skills class to second graders. In addition they were able to exercise their newly developed professional skills through mock job interviews with health professionals.

“We are very proud of these students and we are so happy we were able to give them this opportunity. Our students have a unique chance to see first hand such a comprehensive overview of the health careers. They visit health centers and meet with health professionals at every level, gaining insight about medical careers that they don’t receive anywhere else,” said Ellette Hirschorn, RN, Director of Clinical Services and Programs at Open Door. “They are now peer leaders and mentors to their fellow students because of this program, which opens doors to career paths they would not have considered otherwise.”

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. The federally qualified community health center serves a multi-cultural community and has provided top quality medical, dental care and social services to the Westchester community, particularly the economically disadvantaged, for 38 years. Open Door has four centers in Westchester located in Ossining, Port Chester, Mt. Kisco and Sleepy Hollow. In addition, Open Door operates School-Based Health Centers in Port Chester at The Edison Elementary 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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