

## CONGRESSMAN JOHN HALL IS ALL SMILES ABOUT OPEN DOOR FAMILY MEDICAL CENTERS' MOBILE DENTAL UNIT

On a bright late Spring morning Congressman John Hall (NY-19) toured Open Door Family Medical Centers' month-old Mobile Dental Unit. Parked outside of the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester, the unit has two fully equipped exam rooms and is staffed by a dentist, hygienist and two dental assistants.

The Mobile Unit is stationed at the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester and Neighbor's Link during the week, providing accessible, affordable dental services to over 1,200 in Mt. Kisco and the surrounding community.



Congressman John Hall & Lindsay Farrell in front of Mobile Dental Unit.

“I wish we could spread mobile dental units like this one around the Hudson Valley and the State,” said Congressman Hall after touring Open Door’s new Mobile Dental Unit. “It’s equipped with the latest technology and the fact that it’s mobile means that people no longer have to drive long distances for their dental care – the care now comes to them. The unit fills a missing link in our antiquated medical delivery system. It will provide a much needed service to kids and adults – but especially kids. It’s been proven that when good hygiene starts at a young age, the outcomes are so much better. And this isn’t a frill – it’s a necessity. We know that the health of the mouth has a direct effect on the rest of the body including heart.”

Lindsay Farrell, President and CEO of Open Door commented on Congressman Hall’s ongoing support of community health centers. “The recent passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which was supported by Congressman Hall, will provide much needed funds to community health centers throughout the country, allowing us to continue to provide quality medical services to those most in need in our communities. We are grateful for the leadership and understanding Congressman Hall has shown regarding health care in America.”

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act includes \$12.5 billion over five years to expand, construct and operate community health centers like Open Door. The funds will double the number of health centers nationally over the next five years from 7,500 to 15,000. The number of patients served by these facilities will rise from 20 million today to about 40 million by 2015. Community health centers provide access to primary care, dental care, mental health counseling and low-cost prescription drugs on a sliding-fee scale insuring that no one is turned away regardless of their insurance or income status.

### **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 41,000 patients were treated at Open Door, making nearly 200,000 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.