

**AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION HONORS
OPEN DOOR'S ELLETTE HIRSCHORN & STEVEN MANDES AS
"ASTHMA-FRIENDLY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE CHAMPIONS"**

Ellette Hirschorn, RN, Director of Clinical Services and Programs at Open Door Family Medical Centers has been honored by the American Lung Association of New York as an "Asthma-Friendly Schools Initiative Champion" for her tireless efforts to create an "asthma-friendly" environment for students at Port Chester Middle School. Steven Mandes, an asthma management coordinator in Open Door's School-Based Health Centers was also recognized. The award was presented to Ms. Hirschorn and Mr. Mandes at the Port Chester School District Wellness Team meeting on June 9.



The Asthma-Friendly Schools Initiative (AFSI) Champion Awards are given in recognition to schools, school districts and volunteers that have helped to develop or support comprehensive asthma management plans in school systems. As the overseer of Open Door's School-Based Health Centers in the Port Chester School District, Ms. Hirschorn and Mr. Mandes have pushed to create a safe environment for students with asthma at Port Chester Middle School, resulting in a 75% drop in missed school days and a 55% decrease in unplanned visits to the school nurse due to asthma-related causes.



Above: Ellette Hirschorn with Jacqueline Rubino of the American Lung Association in New York with award. Below: Steven Mandes with Ms. Rubino with award.

"Asthma makes breathing difficult for nearly 7 million children in America and is a leading cause of school absenteeism," said Scott Santarella, President and CEO, American Lung Association in New York. "The Lung Association has been leading the fight against asthma for many years, through research, education and advocacy. By supporting the Asthma Friendly Schools Initiative, Ellette Hirschorn, Steven Mandes, and Open Door Family Medical Centers have helped kids with asthma stay healthy, in school and ready to learn."

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.