

## OPEN DOOR FAMILY MEDICAL CENTERS AND THE PARK AVENUE SCHOOL CELEBRATE SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER

On Monday, January 23 at 10am Open Door Family Medical Centers and the Park Avenue School will officially recognize the opening of the school's [School-Based Health Center](#) (SBHC) with a ribbon cutting ceremony. School officials, Open Door's CEO Lindsay Farrell and staff, students and community school partners will all be on hand to cut the ribbon. The [Park Avenue School](#) is located at 75 Park Avenue in Port Chester.

School-based health centers emerged in the 1970's in recognition of the increasing number of children and adolescents who lacked access to health care but also needed care that was age sensitive, confidential, safe and geographically accessible and suited to their unique developmental needs. In 2004, the Port Chester School District entered into a collaboration with Open Door Family Medical Centers resulting in the opening of school-based health centers at Edison School; JFK Math, Science and Technology Magnet School; Port Chester Middle School and Port Chester High School and in doing so, continued to build its commitment to the development of full service community schools.

Studies have shown that School-Based Health Centers reduce inappropriate use of emergency rooms and increase appropriate use of medical and mental health services. In addition, they have been shown to positively impact the mental health of students and reduce the hospitalization rates for asthmatic children. Such data demonstrates that SBHC's provide comprehensive accessible and high quality services that add measurable value not only to the health care delivery system but to the educational system as well; healthier children make better students, better students make better schools and better schools make better communities.

### **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 40 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 2010, 43,505 patients were treated at Open Door, making 170,061 patient visits. In the same year 13,842 children were treated. Funding for Open Door Family Medical Centers comes from local, state and federal grants as well as private foundations and individuals.

