

NOVEMBER 14, 2018

## **WHITTIER STREET HEALTH CENTER: BUILDING DEDICATION & NAMING CEREMONY**

FREDERICA M. WILLIAMS BUILDING  
1290 TREMONT STREET  
ROXBURY, MA 02120

*A legacy of service, love and social justice.*



**WHITTIER STREET HEALTH CENTER**  
Comprehensive. Compassionate. Community.

November 14, 2018  
Whittier Street Health Center- Frederica M. Williams Building  
Naming and Dedication Ceremony

**Building Unveiling**, Board of Directors

**Reception**

**Welcome**, Pastor Gerald Bell, Board Chairman, WSHC

**Invocation**, Reverend Thomas Kennedy, Trinity Church, Boston

**Presenters**

- **Ms. Abigail Sawyerr**

Alumni, Freetown Secondary School for Girls

- **Mr. Chrispin B. Deigh**

Freetown, Sierra Leone, will lead us in singing High We Exalt Thee, National Anthem of Sierra Leone

- **Mr. Frederic Williams**

Northampton, UK, will lead us in singing God Save The Queen, National Anthem of the United Kingdom

- **All** Star-Spangled Banner, National Anthem of the United States of America

- **Mr. Paul Park's Jr.**

Former Board Chair, Board of Directors, WSHC

- **Ms. Mary Concannon**

Guidance Counselor, Catholic Memorial School, Boston, MA

- **Ms. Stephanie Thomas**

Whittier Street Tenant Task Force

- **Mr. Bob Mahoney**

President & CEO, Belmont Savings Bank and member of WSHC President's Advisory Council

- **Dr. Edwards Benz Jr.**

Former President & CEO, Dana Farber Cancer Institute

- **Ms. Eva Clark**

Vice Chair, Board of Directors, WSHC

- **Ms. Frederica M. Williams**

President & CEO, Whittier Street Health Center

**Closing** Pastor Gerald Bell, Board Chair, Board of Directors, WSHC

Following the program, guests are invited to tour the Health Center facility and to enjoy the refreshments.



## National Anthems

### **Freetown Secondary School for Girls, School Song:**

Play up, play up, play up, play up  
Play up, play up, play up, play up  
and play the game  
This is a world, That year by year  
While in our place the school is set  
and every one of our girls must hear  
and none that hears it dares forget .  
This they all with a joyful mind  
Bear through life like a torch in flame  
and falling fling, to the host behind  
Play up, play up, play up, play up  
Play up, play up, play up, play up  
and play the game.

### **United Kingdom:**

God save our gracious Queen!  
Long live our noble Queen!  
God save the Queen!  
Send her victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us:  
God save the Queen!

### **Sierra Leone:**

High we exalt thee, realm of the free;  
Great is the love we have for thee;  
Firmly united ever we stand,  
Singing thy praise, O native land.  
We raise up our hearts and our voices on  
high,  
The hills and the valleys re-echo our cry;  
Blessing and peace be ever thine own,  
Land that we love, our Sierra Leone.

### **United States of America:**

O say can you see, by the dawn's early  
light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the  
twilight's last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars  
through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so  
gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs  
bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag  
was still there;  
O say does that star-spangled banner yet  
wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of  
the brave?

## Message from the Board of Directors:


*The measure of success is not the number of achievements, but the number of obstacles overcome and the number of people you helped along the way. -*

*Booker T. Washington*

*The Whittier Street Health Center is pleased to name its building after its President & CEO, Frederica Matilda V. Williams.*

Frederica M. Williams has been the President & CEO of Whittier Street Health Center since 2002. Since then she has moved the center to its current location on Tremont Street, Roxbury. This transition has not been without its challenges. The total cost for the construction of the building was \$37 million, and the road to its completion was fraught with difficulties. The entire project took ten years and involved complex negotiations during the worst economic time to raise private funding, lease buy-outs, gain new market tax credits, foster individual support, and secure stimulus funding. Ms. Williams led these key negotiations and strategized with various hospital partners including the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and the Brigham and Women's Hospital. She also arranged a lease buy-out from Northeastern University, bargained with the city of Boston and strategically negotiated with the late Mayor Menino and three other land developers for the parcel of land where the building is now located.

Once the parcel was acquired, the construction project itself was no less of a challenge. Ms. Williams led the design team, working closely with architect Fernando Domenach to design a healing, welcoming and nurturing wellness center and patient centered medical home. The fates had other plans. Six weeks before the building was to be completed, there was a major flood on all five floors; five months later a bus plowed into the building. Undeterred and effecting one of her many new roles as Building Project Manager, working with the Suffolk Construction team, Ms. Williams pushed forward with repairs and the remaining construction.



Despite severe skepticism from some stakeholders, Ms. Williams' guidance and perseverance saw the building completed within 14 months and \$640,000 under budget, without disruption to the new patient services.

Though the road to completion has been a bumpy one, Whittier Street Health Center has flourished in its six years at its home on Tremont Street. Since 2015, additions to the facility have included a 6,600-square-foot gym for patients and staff; a community garden for patients; and a satellite clinic on Blue Hill Avenue.

Today, Whittier is a beacon of hope for 30,000 people and provides 28,000 annual visits to community residents and it doesn't stop there. In October 2018, Ms. Williams arranged for the center to open a food pantry to address rampant food insecurity in the community and in November 2018 she opened a Mobile Health Van to provide services to the homeless across Boston, and in particular in the areas worst affected by the recent opioid epidemic.

The story of how Whittier Street Health Center has been shaped by Ms. Williams is a shining example of how one person with tenacity, passion and determination to do good can do so, against many odds, achieve an astounding result and provide health benefits that Boston's underserved communities will be reaping for generations to come.




A Legacy of Service, Love and Social Justice:

Whittier Street Health Center: Building Our Legacy, Building Our  
Future

Honoring the service of Frederica Matilda Williams, President & CEO,  
Whittier Street Health Center and the legacy of the late Emeric A.  
Frederick Williams, Deputy General Manager, Sierra Leone External  
Telecommunications and Matilda E. Williams, Entrepreneur and  
Philanthropist

*“The testament of a man lies not in the magnitude of possessions and  
property left to his heirs, but the reach of his legacy long after his  
death.” T.M.Brown*







Frederica Matilda Virginia  
Born in Freetown, Sierra Leone  
Moved to Penzance, Cornwall, United Kingdom when she was 6 months.  
Picture taken in Penzance , Cornwall



*Frederica Matilda Virginia Williams is the third child of the late Emeric A. Frederick Williams, former Deputy General Manager of the Sierra Leone External Telecommunications and Matilda Effeh Williams, Philanthropist, Entrepreneur and Fashionista.*

## Background:

Born in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, Frederica M. Williams is from the Creole (Krio) people, a melding of freed African- American, Jamaican and British freed slaves who with help from the British government settled in Sierra Leone after the American Revolutionary War. She is the third child of Emeric A. Frederick Williams, former Deputy General Manager of the Sierra Leone External Telecommunications and Matilda Effeh Williams, philanthropist, entrepreneur and an original fashionista, who instilled her with values of caring for and helping others. Both parents were committed to imparting values of compassion, generosity, integrity and humility, Frederica remembers. Frederica commends her parents for building a strong foundation of hard work, faith, love and hope. Moving in faith and not in fear was ingrained in her DNA.

As a student growing up in Sierra Leone, her teachers at the Freetown Secondary School for Girls further impressed loyalty, respect for others and most importantly, her self- worth as a woman. Daily prayer and school mantra extolled excellence and hard work, determination and compassion for others. As a young girl she was first to stand up to bullies to protect others who could not protect themselves. This commitment to excellence and passion for service, love and social justice for vulnerable people has continued in her professional life.

## **The Journey at Whittier Street Health Center:**

Frederica M. Williams, President and CEO of Whittier Street Health Care Center (Whittier), has transformed a basic community health care center into a neighborhood centerpiece and national model. Her keen vision has positioned Whittier as a leader in urban health care with a crucial focus on the importance of culturally competent healthcare and social services for diverse populations including immigrants and refugees. As one of Boston's most dynamic leaders, Williams herself is an immigrant born in Freetown, Sierra Leone, immigrated from London, England in 1984, and has since risen to the leadership of one of Boston's premier community healthcare centers.

With a deep commitment to embracing Boston's multicultural richness and to empowering people to participate fully in their physical, mental, and social uplift and that of their community, Williams takes the health of Boston's neediest residents to heart. She is highly engaged in supporting improvements in the health of diverse populations living in Massachusetts as well as eliminating health and social disparities among minorities. She is an advocate extraordinaire and a compassionate and caring leader who is deeply committed to improving the lives of vulnerable residents of Boston.

Under Williams' direction, Whittier has embarked upon ambitious community outreach campaigns, taking quality health care to patients rather than waiting for patients to arrive at their door. Whether hosting New England's largest men's health summit, making health care practitioners available at local houses of worship, or providing the homeless and residents of public housing with on-site access to health screenings, Whittier relentlessly engages its neighborhood, encouraging healthy lifestyles and paving the way for better health. This fervor to better the community's health is cultivated from the top, beginning with Williams.



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In addition to fostering an environment of proactive health care and energizing a community, Williams has brought sound financial stewardship to Whittier. As such, she is ensuring that the services and resources offered by Whittier will be available for generations to come. She brings much needed business acumen to her daily work. Since Williams began at Whittier, the number of people served increased from 5,000 to 30,000 in 2015.

Under her leadership, Whittier built its first permanent medical home in its 85 year history of serving Boston's residents. This new LEED certified health and wellness center will provide the much needed capacity for Whittier to provide up to 220,000 clinic visits annually and to continue to expand its innovative medical and public health services. In 2015, Whittier opened a Wellness Institute comprised of a state-of-the-art Fitness Club and Community Garden to address the high rates of obesity and related chronic diseases due to physical fitness, nutrition and stress. In 2017, Whittier opened a satellite clinic and full service pharmacy on Blue Hill Ave, in Roxbury.

She attended the London School of Accountancy, passed the examinations of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Financial Administrators, United Kingdom (ICSA- A Professional Organization in the United Kingdom that provides education and certification in Corporate Finance) and was elected fellow of the Institute. She obtained a graduate certificate in Administration and Management from the Harvard University Extension School and a Master in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from Anna Maria College in Paxton, Mass. She passed the exams of the Institute of Administrative Management (United Kingdom) with distinction and has participated in several Executive Education programs at the Harvard University Business School. She is also a fellow of the National Association of Corporate Directors.



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She is the recipient of numerous awards and recognition including the Women Business Magazine's Top 10 Heroes Award and the UMass Boston's Robert Quinn Award in 2008. The WMJX-106.7FM's Exceptional Women in Healthcare Award in 2009. In 2010, she received the Massachusetts League of Community Health Center's Outstanding Massachusetts Health Center Executive Director Award, the Boston Business Journal's Health Champion Award for Community Outreach and the Community Leadership Award from the Mayor's Office of New Bostonians. In 2011 she received the Pinnacle Award from the Boston Chamber of Commerce's Women's Network and from The Network Journal in New York as one of the 25 Influential Black Women in Business. In 2012, she was received an award from the U.S. White House Communications Agency for her exceptional community service. In 2015 and 2016, the Boston Business Journal (BBJ) named her as one of the BBJ: Power 50 Bostonians, BBJ: Leader Transforming Real Estate in Boston, and a BBJ: Woman of Influence. In addition, under her leadership, for four consecutive years from 2014-2018 the Boston Globe named Whittier one of the top 100 Women Led Businesses in Massachusetts.

Williams also serves others in her community as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, and the Boston Health Net. She is also a member of the International Women's Forum, Massachusetts Women's Forum, Women Business Leaders of the U.S. Health Care Industry Foundation, a Fellow of the National Association of Corporate Directors, and is an Independent Director of Eversource, NYSE (ES, parent company of NStar), the largest utility system in New England.



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Frederica M. Williams is deeply grateful to her parents, for their selfless love and devotion to their children and countless people in Sierra Leone and Liberia, and for instilling the values of hard-work, determination, faith, self-confidence, humility, compassion, and resiliency and a deep commitment to service and social justice.

**"What will you be known for after your death? What will the world say about you? The world only celebrates those who maximize their potentials to create and leave legacies behind for future generations to come. These ones, though they die, continue to live in the hearts of those they impacted. They live on because of their principles, their products, their inventions, and their achievements. One generation after another testify to the legacy that such men have left behind."**  
Clement Odegbge



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Mrs. Matilda Effehsochee Williams an entrepreneur and philanthropist.

Former Founding member of

- Mothers Union Washington, DC, USA.

Former Member of

- Mothers Union, Church of the Holy Trinity, Freetown, Sierra Leone,
- Friday Midday Prayer Group
- Church of the Holy Trinity, Freetown, Sierra Leone, Dorcas Association
- And the United Church Women.

A Former Life Patron of

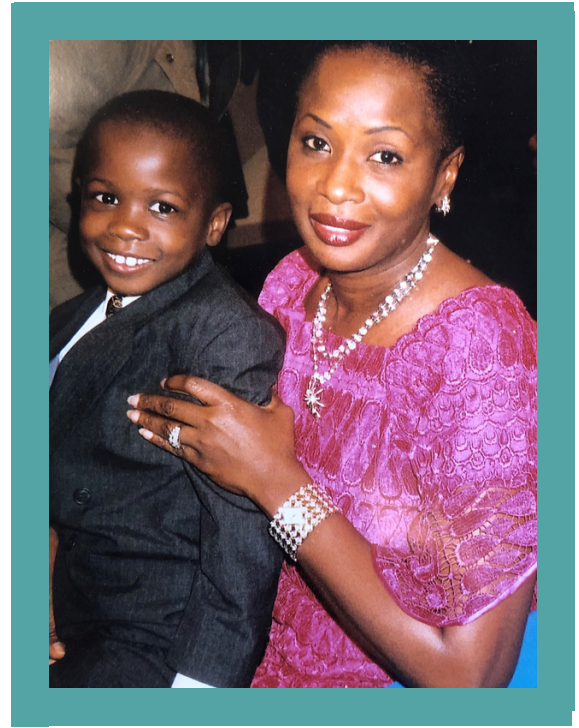
- Holy Trinity Church Choir, Freetown, Sierra Leone
- Ladies Volunteer Circle, Buxton Memorial Methodist Church, Freetown, Sierra Leone.





## **FAITH, FAMILY, CAREER:**

Frederica M. Williams is the proud mother of three sons—Dennis, Dunstant and Devin.



## **Whittier Street Health Center**


Whittier Street Health Center is a private, nonprofit, independently licensed community health center located in Lower Roxbury. Whittier is accredited by the Joint Commission and recognized by the NCQA as a Level 3 (highest level) Patient Centered Medical Home. We offer 40 health care programs and wellness services designed to meet the primary health care, behavioral health, and social needs of our community.

Our mission is to provide high quality, reliable and accessible primary health care and support services to promote wellness and to eliminate health and social disparities. Our vision is to serve as the premier leader in urban health care to diverse populations.

We serve 30,000 clients in Roxbury and the surrounding neighborhoods of Jamaica Plain, Dorchester, Mattapan, Roslindale, Mission Hill and Greater Boston. We have an ethnically and racially diverse patient population, with 42% identifying as black or African-American, 40% as Hispanic/Latino, 6% as white, and 12% as other. Over a third of our patients (35%) are uninsured, despite recent health care policy reforms. 81% of our patients live in public housing and 53% live below 200% of the poverty line. Approximately 35% of Whittier's patients are uninsured. We serve patients from diverse backgrounds including refugees and new immigrants.

The individuals and families we serve face a disproportionate risk of major diseases and health complications, including diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease, asthma, obesity, depression, and HIV/AIDS. They also bear the burden of neighborhood violence and limited access to fresh foods, safe green spaces, employment and educational opportunities and affordable housing.





In response, our primary care delivery model is patient-centered, team-based, comprehensive, continuous, and community-responsive. We strive to offer every service that a patient might need for their health and social needs, which are intertwined. For example, a patient with diabetes and eye complications, who cannot drive to her doctor's appointment, will be transported via our patient shuttle van to the health center, where she can see her provider on the third floor, speak with a nutritionist on the fourth floor, and be referred to the ophthalmologist on the first floor.

Through our focus on combining health with wellness and social supports, we are helping to close the gap in health care delivery, and to reduce the high hospitalization and mortality rates in our community. Together with our supporters and our partners in the community, we are moving closer and closer to achieving equity in health care.

**Locations:**

Health Care and Wellness Center and Full Service Gym:  
1290 Tremont Street,  
Roxbury, MA 02120

**Satellite Clinic:**

278 Blue Hill Ave,  
Roxbury, MA 02119

**Website:** [www.wshc.org](http://www.wshc.org)

**Comprehensive. Compassionate. Community**

Championing Equitable Access to High Quality Health Care



# WHITTIER STREET HEALTH CENTER

@ the

FREDERICA M. WILLIAMS BUILDING

Comprehensive. Compassionate. Community.

1290 Tremont Street · Roxbury, MA · 02120

(617) 427-1000 · [www.wshc.org](http://www.wshc.org)

## Vision

Our vision is to serve as the premier health center for diverse populations and promote adoption of a new model of care that produces far better health results at less cost than the current health care system.

## Mission

To provide high quality, reliable and accessible health care and social services for diverse populations that promote a culture of wellness and eliminate disparities related to race, ethnicity, and income level.