

CEO Memo – December

Holiday greetings from Whittier Street Health Center! This season, we are celebrating another successful year of serving the community through our nationally recognized health and wellness programs.

As we greet the New Year, I would like to thank all of our supporters, whose shared commitment to our mission of ensuring equitable access to high quality health care has helped us move closer to our vision of becoming a champion for diverse populations.

Let me close out the year by highlighting some of our most recent achievements:

Gospel Concert

At Whittier's annual *Gospel Concert: Saving the Health of the Community*, we engage the community, honor our community heroes, and celebrate the talents of local gospel artists. At this year's 12th annual concert, Whittier honored Governor Deval L. Patrick for his exemplary leadership in the state and his deep commitment to the communities we serve. We also honored Ms. Debra Miller, the Chair of our Community Board of Directors and VP of External Relations for the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund, for her dedication to the health and well-being of New England residents.

The event attracted more than 300 gospel music lovers and fans. Gospel icon Dr. Bobby Jones of BET's *Bobby Jones Gospel* once again hosted and introduced renowned gospel performers and choirs from around New England, including The Oladipo Sisters, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Jubilee Mass Choir, J. Charley & Family, So Amazing (Children's Choir), David Altenor, Voices of Imani (Boston College), Static Noyze Dance Company (MTV's America's Best Dance Crew finalists), Voices of Zion (Suffolk University Choir), Elder Hu White, Radikal Praize, and Son del Sol.

We look forward to seeing you again at next year's 13th Gospel Concert!

Grant Awards:

We received a \$100,000 grant from a local private fund for our planned Medical Fitness Center, which will provide integrative medical services to address the physical, emotional, and mental health of our patients. With the \$500,000 from the Office of Community Services (OCS), we are now set to proceed with breaking ground and offering innovative programming that promotes wellness and the prevention of chronic diseases! As part of our commitment to the economic development of the low-income communities served by Whittier, construction of our Medical Fitness Center will create 20 jobs for residents of Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Two organizations have renewed funding for Whittier programs: the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Massachusetts will continue supporting our *Connecting Consumers with Care* program, where our Community Relations team provides assistance and education about health insurance coverage to uninsured populations. Meanwhile, the *Fitness in the City* program by Boston Children's Hospital will help us continue our Healthy Weight Program, which increases

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access to nutrition counseling and physical activity opportunities for overweight and obese pediatric patients through case management.

Events:

Women for Whittier Holiday Tea & Talk

December 4, 2014, 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

This year, the theme for our holiday tea is “Resiliency: Healthy Living for Women and Girls.” The keynote speaker is Brook Bello, Founder of More Too Life, the survivor-led victim service NGO. There will also be a presentation by some of our DecisionArts participants. DecisionArts is a violence prevention and mentoring program for girls ages 13 to 17 who have experienced violence. The event will honor Deborah Daccord as the 2014 Women's Health Champion. Ms. Daccord is a Partner at Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C. and a dedicated supporter of Women for Whittier.

Community Wellness Holiday Celebration

December 10, 2014, 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

As part of our commitment to improving the health and quality of life of our geriatric patients, Whittier hosts an annual event for them with lunch, holiday music, an aerobics session with Bay State Physical Therapy's Dr. Kenneth Nwosu, and much more.

Thank you again for your support of Whittier Street Health Center as we champion equitable access to high quality health care and wellness programs. Please visit our website (www.wshc.org) and Facebook, Twitter and other social media pages for more about our services and community-based initiatives.