

A STORY A DAY KEEPS THE MIND AT PLAY: OPEN DOOR TO HOST REACH OUT AND READ EVENT

Celebrating the expansion of Open Door Family Medical Centers' successful Reach Out and Read Program, toddlers ages 2-4 and their families are invited to join New York State Assemblywoman Sandra Galef, Ossining Town Supervisor Catherine Borgia, and a surprise guest for a free story time at Open Door's Ossining location (165 Main Street) Wednesday, January 13 at 9:30am. For more information and to reserve your space, contact Robbie Grabowitz at (914) 502-1357 or rgrabowitz@ood.org. Event limited to 15 children and registration closes January 8.

Assemblywoman Galef, Supervisor Borgia and members of the Junior League of Westchester-on-Hudson will share their favorite stories in an intimate setting. As a parent and past 2nd & 3rd grade teacher, Ms. Galef knows the importance of learning to read at a young age and the impact literacy has on a child's ability to succeed in life, as well as to promote the love of reading. Ms. Borgia, also a parent and avid reader, is very happy to be part of a project that brings the joy of reading to young people. Guests will receive a goodie bag that will include a new book, a healthy snack, and more!

Striving to provide more than quality pediatric care, Open Door has enriched thousands of growing minds with literacy through participation in Reach Out and Read (ROR), a national literacy program (www.reachoutandread.org). Open Door is one of seven ROR program sites in the 90th Assembly District and one of 181 ROR in the ROR of Greater New York District. The initiative promotes early childhood literacy as a standard part of primary care in and out of the exam room. Open Door Reach Out and Read volunteers work to build a literacy-rich environment for young patients in waiting areas by engaging children with books and stories. Open Door physicians in Ossining participate in the primary ROR program by giving a brand new age appropriate book to each child at each well visit from ages 6 months to 5 years. They demonstrate reading techniques to parents and encourage reading with their child on a daily basis.

This event is sponsored by the Junior League of Westchester-on-Hudson's Reading Writing and Rhythm in the Rivertowns Initiative.

About Open Door Family Medical Centers

Open Door serves a vast 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. The organization 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 2008, approximately 40,000 patients were treated at Open Door, making 178,000 patient visits. Over 12,500 children were treated during that same year. Funding for the federally

qualified community health center comes from local, state and federal grants as well as private foundations and individuals.

Open Door welcomes volunteer readers and donations of gently used children's books. Please contact Alicia Ward, Volunteer Coordinator for more information at (914) 502-1468 or email award@ood.org.