At a ceremony in New York City yesterday, Open Door Family Medical Centers was the first nonprofit in Westchester County to be a winner of the 2012 New York Community Trust-New York Magazine Nonprofit Excellence Award. Lindsay Farrell, President & CEO and David K. Sherman, Chair of the Center’s Foundation Board and Treasurer of its Operating Board, accepted the Bronze Award and a $5,000 cash prize. They shared the spotlight with Gold Prize winner, the Red Hook Initiative, and Silver Prize winner, Harlem RBI. Now in its sixth year, the Nonprofit Excellence Awards honor outstanding management practices and encourage innovation and communication among New York’s large and diverse nonprofit community.

“Open Door is honored to receive this award and be recognized for innovation and leading management and communication practices in our sector. We believe that meeting our mission efficiently and effectively is a significant aspect of our community stewardship. Our mission is to make sure that everyone, particularly the most vulnerable, have access to the best medical care,” said Lindsay Farrell, President & CEO of Open Door.

Each winner also received scholarships towards tuition at Programs in Social Enterprise in Executive Education at Columbia Business School, valued at a total of $18,000. In a Best Practices Workshop preceding the awards, Charlie Herman, Business and Economics Editor for WNYC Radio interviewed each of the winners about how they manage their organization to achieve mission-driven results.

“The thorough and rigorous process of the awards results in organizations stepping back from day-to-day activities to review, evaluate and think about how their mission is executed. In so doing, opportunities for improvement surface and people become re-energized. Open Door embraces best practice models that strengthen our ability to deliver the highest quality care to our patients today and in the future. We are pleased to be a recipient of this year’s Nonprofit Excellence Awards. More importantly, we appreciate the introspection the process demanded,” said Open Door Foundation Board Chair, David Sherman.

“We are proud to support nonprofit management excellence as an extension of the work we do at The Trust to keep the City vibrant and healthy,” says Lorie Slutsky, President of The New York Community Trust. “We regularly make grants to help organizations plan for the future, invest in technology, and raise money. This is what nonprofits need to thrive and provide vital services efficiently when New Yorkers need them most.” The Trust became lead sponsor of the awards program for the first time this year.

“Each of these three winners showed excellent management practices across the seven areas of nonprofit excellence,” said NPCC President Michael E. Clark. “The corporate world could learn a lot from examining how efficiently and creatively these organizations are run. The funding community also learns each year how important it is to fund management so that nonprofits can thrive, grow and innovate. To help the nonprofit community learn from these three groups, NPCC also will be running a series of Pathways to Excellence workshops in early 2013, featuring winners sharing their best practices and members of the Awards Selection Committee. Education is what this awards program is all about.”

A Selection Committee of 28 nonprofit experts chose the three winning organizations from an original group of 50 applicants. Through two stages of written applications and a site visit for each of six finalists, applicants addressed their management practices across Seven Areas of Nonprofit Excellence: (1) Overall Management Focus on Results; (2)
Governance Structure that Moves Organization Forward; (3) Strong, Transparent and Accountable Financial Management; (4) Inclusive, Diverse and Responsive Organizational Practices; (5) Enlightened Use of Human Resources and Information Technology Resources; (6) Regular and Effective Communications and Use of Communications Technology; and, (7) Effective, Ethical Fundraising and Resource Development.

Since 2007, the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York (NPCC) and Philanthropy New York have managed this program, which is open to nonprofit organizations based in New York City, Long Island and Westchester. The 2012 Awards are also sponsored by New York Magazine and WNYC.

“The truly impressive response of nonprofits in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy is a striking reminder of just how essential it is that we ensure that service providers are well-managed and effective,” said Ronna D. Brown, President, Philanthropy New York. “We salute these three outstanding winners, which have risen to the top of an impressive field. They are model organizations, and should also be highly valued voices in public discussion of how the nonprofit sector is crucial to strong communities in good times and bad.”

Additional financial and in-kind support this year is provided by The New York Community Trust, The Clark Foundation, Ford Foundation, McGladrey LLP, the Fund for the City of New York and the Programs in Social Enterprise at Columbia Business School Executive Education. For more information on the program, please visit http://npexcellence.fcny.org/npea/definition/.

About Open Door Family Medical Centers
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, and will open their first site in Putnam County in the Fall of 2012. 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 2011, 47,245 patients were treated at Open Door, making 208,622 patient visits. In the same year 14,520 children were treated. Funding for Open Door Family Medical Centers comes from local, state and federal grants as well as private foundations and individuals.

About New York Community Trust
Since 1924, The New York Community Trust has been the home of charitable New Yorkers who share a passion for the City—and who are committed to making it better. With our donors, past and present, we support an array of effective nonprofits that help make the City a vital and secure place in which to live and work, while building permanent resources for the future. The New York Community Trust ended 2011 with assets of $1.9 billion in more than 2,000 charitable funds, and made grants totaling $137 million. (www.nycommunitytrust.org)

About New York Magazine
New York Media is the parent company of the ground-breaking weekly New York magazine, founded in 1968; the up-to-the-minute news and service website nymag.com; the Grub Street network of food blogs; the entertainment and culture news site Vulture; and the twice-yearly New York Weddings magazine. (www.nymag.com)

Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York (NPCC) is the largest umbrella membership and service organization for nonprofits in the New York City area, serving some 1,500 organizations in the city, Long Island and Westchester. NPCC serves as the leading information source and voice for New York City area nonprofits on sector-wide issues, as well as a provider of support services and cost-saving programs for its members. NPCC informs and connects nonprofit leaders, saves nonprofits money, and strengthens the nonprofit sector by building positive relations with government and advocating effective, accountable and transparent nonprofit management and governance practices. (www.npccny.org)

Philanthropy New York is a nonprofit membership organization of 285 grant making foundations and corporations in the tri-state New York area and beyond. Its members award about $3.9 billion annually to charitable organizations in New York and around the globe. Philanthropy New York seeks to strengthen philanthropy by offering programs and
resources for valuable and strategic grant making. Its mission is to promote and support the practice of effective philanthropy for the public good. (www.philanthropynewyork.org)

**WNYC** is the most listened-to public radio station in the country, reaching over 1.1 million listeners each week. Consisting of FM 93.9, AM 820 and wnyc.org, WNYC aims to inform the public locally and globally on current events, politics, and civic affairs; export New York’s arts and cultural riches to the rest of the world; and, give voice to diverse audiences. WNYC produces signature programs including *The Brian Lehrer Show, The Leonard Lopate Show*, and *Radiolab*, among others, and also broadcasts the best offerings from NPR, American Public Media, the British Broadcasting Company (BBC), and Public Radio International. With more than 100,000 members, the station operates as an independent non-profit and has one of the largest membership bases of any institution in the city. (www.wnyc.org)