I’m forever in awe of what Open Door does day in and day out. I think back to 1984 when I first set foot through the doors of this wonderful community health center; I knew right away this was the coolest place I’d ever been. I knew I had to become more involved. And today, so many years later, I feel even more passion about Open Door when I take stock of all we are doing to build stronger, healthier communities. From our school health programs to our asthma friendly champions; from our emerging health care leaders to our outstanding physicians; from healthy culinary events to our fundraising golf tournament; from external agencies such as The Joint Commission (JCAHO) and National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA) accreditations to our prestigious national Davies Award, Open Door embodies enduring values the world needs more of. Compassion, commitment, excellence and mission are what you will find here. We hope you too will become more involved in Open Door. Together we are building stronger, healthier communities.

Open Door Family Medical Centers was recognized by the HIMSS Nicholas E. Davies Award of Excellence. Story on page 2.
planned visits to the school and resulted in a 75% drop in unmissed school days. Ellette Hirschorn or supported comprehensive asthma management plans in schools. Ellette and Steve’s efforts have resulted in a 75% decrease in unexplained visits to the school nurse due to asthma-related causes. “Asthma makes breathing difficult for nearly 7 million children in America and is a leading cause of school absence,” said Scott Sanarella, President and CEO, American Lung Association in New York. “The Lung Association has been leading the fight against asthma for many years, through research, education and advocacy. By supporting the Asthma Friendly Schools Initiative, Ellette Hirschorn, Steven Mandes, and Open Door Family Medical Centers have helped kids with asthma stay healthy, in school and ready to learn.”

From The Front-Line:

Open Door Recognized Nationally As Information Technology Innovator

Open Door received the coveted national 2010 HIMSS Community Health Davies Award for Excellence for its implementation and use of health information technology. This is the highest recognition of excellence that a community health organization can receive for its use of electronic health records. What this means is that Open Door is transforming health care through the effective use of information technology and information management systems to improve the quality, safety, access and cost effectiveness of patient care.

As a Joint Commission/accredited health center and a National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA) Level III Patient-Centered Medical Home, Open Door embraces knowledge sharing and collaboration with numerous partners to improve information exchange in the health care system and ensure efficiencies and benefits that can transform the public health of all residents in the community. This is particularly critical as this nation struggles with cost and quality issues in health care.

“Our ability to leverage health care technology to improve reporting tools and to achieve care quality and operational efficiencies benefits not only the patients we serve, but the community at large,” says Lindsay Farrell, President & CEO of Open Door. The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) is a cause-based, not-for-profit organization exclusively focused on providing global leadership for the optimal use of information technology (IT) and management systems for the betterment of health care. Founded 50 years ago, HIMSS and its related organizations represent more than 30,000 individual members, of which two-thirds work in health care, providers, governmental and not-for-profit organizations. The highest recognition of excellence a community health organization can receive for use of electronic health records.
The ability to provide health care services within the schools makes a profound difference in the health of the students enrolled in the program.

Shiny new lunch boxes and backpacks weren’t the only things students and parents saw on the first day of school at the Park Avenue School in Port Chester. The doors to our school-based health center opened at the Park Avenue School this September. This is our fifth school-based health center in four years, including centers at The Edison Elementary School, Kennedy Magnet School, Port Chester Middle School and Port Chester High School. By September 7th, half of Park Avenue School’s students had enrolled in the new health center staffed by Open Door providers Debra Gerson, MD, Robin Dillon, NP and Patient Care Technician Gloria Neyra. Today 2,910 students are enrolled in all five school-based health centers.

“Our first day on-site was great, meeting and greeting students and staff,” said Ellette Hirschorn, Director of School-Based Health Centers. “The school community gave us a very warm welcome.”

The ability to provide health care services within the schools makes a profound difference in the health of the students enrolled in the program, which has served Port Chester since 2007. Dr. Gerson, the Medical Director of School-Based Health Centers, recalls one patient whose visit to the school-based center saved his vision in one eye. “Alejandro had been hit in the eye with a soccer ball over the weekend and came in to see me complaining about a serious pain in his right eye. He was seeing floaters and his vision was blurred. After examining him, I immediately arranged for him to see an eye doctor that afternoon, where he was diagnosed with a detached retina. He was scheduled for surgery the next day. According to Alejandro’s surgeon, he would have lost vision in his right eye if the retina detached further. This is one example of the value of immediate and affordable access to care.”

Open Door’s school-based health centers have the ability to identify such serious conditions. But that’s not all: these centers provide numerous services including physicals, immunizations, wellness visits, chronic disease management, hearing and vision screenings, and mental health screenings. They are there to help students and their families manage significant health concerns like asthma and obesity before they lead to bigger problems. The school-based health program is available to all students who are enrolled by their parents.

Congratulations to the fifteen Port Chester High School students who completed their Future Health Leaders training in August with Open Door. The four-week summer intensive program gave students a comprehensive overview of health-related career opportunities unavailable to them anywhere else. Through the Future Health Leaders program, students become well-versed in a wide range of health topics, including basic medical training, nutrition, exercise, adolescent medicine and mental health. They learned how to take vital signs and provide first aid. By the end of the program, they had earned their CPR Certification. In addition to their own training, the students led a summer safety skills class for second-graders and met with health professionals at every level. “They are now peer leaders and mentors to their fellow students because of this program,” says Ellette Hirschorn, RN, Director of Clinical Services and Programs.

Welcome To Our New Providers

Colleen S. Eng, D.O., joined Open Door in August after completing her residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Dr. Eng was the Chief Resident at Aria Health in Langhorne, Pennsylvania. She completed her Bachelor’s Degree at Cornell University and attended the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey’s School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Ana C. Guerra, M.D., a family physician, was educated at the Universidad Iberoamericana School of Medicine in Mexico City and earned her Doctorate of Medicine in Langhorne, Pennsylvania. She completed her residency at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. Dr. Guerra received her Bachelor’s Degree at the University of Georgia in Atlanta, Georgia, and attended the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, Georgia.

Kudos Corner

FUTURE HEALTH CARE LEADERS

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RECOGNITION FOR PATIENT CARE COORDINATION

Francia Ortiz, Open Door’s Supervisor of Patient Advocacy, was awarded The Paul Ramos Memorial Award from the Community Health Care Association of New York State. This award recognizes her leadership and dedication in expanding the Center’s patient advocacy program to nine advocates who support 60 licensed providers. The program has become a model for improving care coordination across transitions in the health care delivery system.

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Open Door Faces Funding Cuts: We Need Your Support NOW

County Executive Robert Astorino has proposed the elimination of $1.9 million in County support for three neighborhood health centers in Westchester. Open Door will lose more than $500,000 of Westchester County Department of Health funding. Eliminating the County investment will end the County contracts with the centers for the screening and treatment of communicable diseases, such as measles, whooping cough, and hepatitis B. It will also end the County’s contracts with centers to deliver services under Title VI of the state Public Health Law, which requires the immunization of school-age children for 11 communicable diseases. According to public health statistics, outside of New York City, Westchester has the second-highest number of residents with tuberculosis, the most prevalent disease. Astorino and the County have proposed changes to the local school health screening programs that will significantly impact the ability of Open Door and other local clinics to meet the needs of the local community. We need your help today. Please contact your local legislators today; ask them to reinstate these funds.

There When You Need Us

In order to meet the ever growing demand for services, we have recently extended provider hours at our Ossining and Sleepy Hollow sites.

Open Door Ossining
Open Door Sleepy Hollow

Open Door Family Medical Centers
165 Main Street
Permit No. 6201
White Plains, NY 10603

Saturday: 9:00am-2:00pm
Friday: 8:30am-5:00pm
Thursday: 8:30am-7:00pm
Wednesday: 8:30am-7:00pm
Tuesday: 9:00am-7:00pm
Monday: 8:30am-7:00pm

Open Door Port Chester
Open Door School-Based Health Centers

Open Door Ossining
Open Door Sleepy Hollow
Open Door Port Chester
Open Door School-Based Health Centers

Open Door Family Medical Centers
134 North State Road
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510

Schedule
Registration ...................... 6:30pm
Games .............................. 7:00pm

Format
Texas Hold’em**
Poker Table Naming  $400
Tennis Round Robin
Tennis Court Naming  $300

Patron Levels
Couples Ticket  $225
Includes Poker and/or Tennis and full use of Club Fit facilities, Dinner and Prizes

Sponsors
Laura Mogil
Cristina Sanjuás-Dopazo at 914.502.1414
www.opendoormedical.org

There is a need to meet the growing demand for services, so we have recently extended provider hours at our Ossining and Sleepy Hollow sites.

The new hours in Ossining:
Monday: 8:30am-7:00pm
Tuesday: 8:30am-7:00pm
Wednesday: 8:30am-7:00pm
Thursday: 8:30am-7:00pm
Friday: 8:30am-5:00pm
Saturday: 9:00am-2:00pm

The new hours in Sleepy Hollow:
Monday: 8:30am-7:00pm
Tuesday: 8:30am-7:00pm
Wednesday: 8:30am-7:00pm
Thursday: 8:30am-7:00pm
Friday: 8:30am-5:00pm

For more information contact us at (914) 502.1414 or look us up on our website, www.opendoormedical.org.

Our Mission
Open Door Family Medical Centers is a private, non-profit organization, registered 501(c)(3) with the Internal Revenue Service. Our Mission is to provide quality health care and human services at affordable prices to the community, particularly the economically disadvantaged. We can’t do it without the generosity of our community. Please consider supporting the work we do!

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For additional event information please contact us at (914) 502.1414 or look us up on our website, www.opendoormedical.org.