



MISSION

The Children's Health Fund (CHF) is committed to providing health care to the nation's medically underserved children and their families through the development and support of innovative primary care medical programs, response to public health crises, and the promotion of guaranteed access to appropriate health care for all children.

HISTORY

Founded by singer/songwriter Paul Simon and pediatrician/child advocate Irwin Redlener, MD in 1987, CHF launched its first program, the New York Children's Health Project (NYCHP), with one "big blue van," a state-of-the-art mobile medical unit that brings medical care directly to children with the least access. The NYCHP offers a *medical home* to families, ensuring that they have medical care that is accessible, comprehensive, and culturally competent. Over the years, CHF has replicated the program model across the country, creating the National Children's Health Project Network, comprised of 21 pediatric programs throughout the United States. Since its inception, the network has provided care to over 350,000 medically underserved children and parents in some of the most disadvantaged rural and urban communities in the nation.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

CHF responds to the needs of medically underserved children and families in New York City and across the country through the following program areas.

- **New York Flagship Programs** provide top-quality health care and expanded services to New York City's neediest families, including mental health services, health education and promotion, nutrition counseling, and developmental screening. The *NYCHP* brings caring and committed mobile medical teams to 12 homeless and domestic violence shelters each week. The *South Bronx Health Center for Children and Families* offers an array of services, including prenatal care, comprehensive HIV services, and dental care. Each year, these programs provide care to 10,000 patients.
- **The National Children's Health Project Network** is comprised of 18 Children's Health Projects that provide medical care and essential services to disadvantaged children. Medical care is delivered via fixed-site clinics and mobile medical units at schools, community agencies, churches and public housing projects. Without these services, families would have extremely limited access to care. In 2004, the national network provided 119,671 medical encounters to children and parents across the United States.
- **Public Policy** enables CHF to have a broader impact. CHF has inspired special federal legislation designed to help create innovative Children's Health Projects throughout the



(CHF FACT SHEET cont.)

- United States. Information derived from the national projects creates greater understanding of the plight of medically underserved children; helps to focus more attention and resources on providing essential support; and provides data for building a national consensus of support for making appropriate health care available to every child in America.

AREAS OF FOCUS / SPECIAL INITIATIVES

The Children's Health Fund develops innovative programs that are designed to meet the challenging and diverse needs of America's medically underserved children:

- **Childhood Asthma Initiative** combines the most effective clinical guidelines with asthma education and psychosocial support to help families manage this chronic and potentially life-threatening disease, which is prevalent among homeless and other low-income children.
- **Referral Management Initiative** helps ensure that high-risk populations receive necessary specialty care by arranging specialist appointments, making transportation arrangements, and facilitating communication between primary care providers and specialists.
- **Reading Project** promotes literacy and a life-long interest in learning by presenting pediatric patients and family members with culturally, developmentally, and linguistically appropriate books at each medical visit.
- **Power of Play Initiative** educates parents on important developmental benchmarks and how age-appropriate play and activities can foster healthy physical and cognitive development.
- **Healthy B.A.S.I.C.S and Healthy K.I.D.S** provides straightforward, accurate and culturally relevant health educational materials suitable for children and families of all backgrounds.
- **Starting Right** addresses the epidemic rates of obesity and inactivity leading to an increasing rate of Type 2 Diabetes.
- **Electronic Health Record Information System.** EHRIS, currently in development and scheduled for release in 2007 is the Children's Health Fund's third generation electronic health record system. Designed to meet the needs of children and their families, EHRIS is designed to help providers of health care services to vulnerable populations to best advantage of emerging health information technologies.