

For Immediate Release
October 5, 2009

Pediatric Mobile Clinic Launched To Help Greater New Brunswick Area Children

Barriers to healthcare in under-served communities can prevent children and their families from getting the care they so desperately need to help them stay well or treat them when they are sick.

The University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ)-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS) received a grant from Johnson & Johnson that will help bring quality care through the availability of a pediatric mobile clinic in the greater New Brunswick area to those who might not otherwise have access.

The expanded program is a partnership between the RWJMS Department of Pediatrics, the UMDNJ-School of Nursing (SN) and the **Children's Health Fund (CHF)**. The program originally began with initial funding from the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey. The acquisition of a van through a gift from CHF allowed the School of Nursing to initiate the New Jersey Children's Health Project in the Newark area. The gift from J&J allowed for the expansion of the program to the greater New Brunswick area. The School of Nursing will continue to serve children in Newark, Irvington and Elizabeth.

The mobile clinic was officially launched on October 5 in a ceremony at the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset.

Speakers included Dr. William F. Owen, Jr., president of UMDNJ; Dr. Peter S. Amenta, dean of RWJMS; Dr. Susan W. Salmond, dean of the School of Nursing and James Cahill, mayor of the City of New Brunswick.

“This new mobile health unit will greatly expand access to vital health care services for families in New Brunswick who need them most,” said Sharon D’Agostino, vice president, Worldwide Corporate Contributions and Community Relations, Johnson & Johnson. “Working with UMDNJ, we are committed to breaking down health care barriers for families who do not have access to high-quality preventive services.”

The mobile clinic will provide asthma prevention and education programs, obesity screening and prevention programs and developmental screenings for children up to five years of age. Robert Wood Johnson Medical School personnel will work closely with Chandler Health Center to coordinate needed care.

“This mobile service will enhance our ability to meet the needs of Middlesex county children who are at high risk for obesity (25% - obese and at risk), and asthma (15%),” explained Peter Amenta, MD., dean of RWJMS. “Education is a huge factor that helps with the management and prevention of problems in both of these areas. In addition, our ability to provide early identification of developmental delays and appropriate intervention can greatly improve the lives of these children.”

To learn more about the mobile clinic, call Nicole Bouknight, director of development, at (908) 731-6597 or nbouknight@njhf.org.

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