



Children's Health Fund



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Children's Health Fund, Marshall University School of Medicine Unveil New Mobile Medical Clinic in Huntington

*Walmart Foundation Supports Health Care Services to Rural Children
Living in Areas with Few Pediatric Providers*

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – Children's Health Fund and Marshall University's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine will launch a new mobile medical clinic for the West Virginia Children's Health Project Thursday, May 26. The event will be at 9:30 a.m. at Spring Hill Elementary School in Huntington.

The West Virginia Children's Health Project, a collaboration between Children's Health Fund and Marshall's medical school, provides comprehensive primary care to children and adolescents living in rural southwestern West Virginia. The new mobile medical clinic was funded in part by a grant from the Walmart Foundation designated for expansion of health care services in rural areas. American Idol's Idol Gives Back Foundation also contributed funding.

The new mobile medical clinic will enable the Children's Health Project to address the needs of medically underserved children in Lincoln, Cabell, Wayne, Putnam and Mason counties, including providing regularly scheduled clinics at 10 schools in Lincoln, Cabell and Wayne counties.

"Children in rural areas often face geographic barriers in accessing health care. In West Virginia, many families must travel significant distances across mountain roads to reach health care providers," said Karen Redlener, Children's Health Fund executive director. "The Walmart Foundation's generous gift allows us to bring high-quality, comprehensive health care services directly to medically underserved children at their schools."

"After nearly two decades, the Medical School's mobile pediatric clinic serves as a vital link and contributor to Marshall University's rural outreach efforts," said Marshall University President Stephen J. Kopp, Ph.D. "Its proven mission of educating physicians, who are both attuned to the needs of rural West Virginians and skilled in meeting those needs, is well-documented. This new, state-of-the-art mobile clinic will enable our

physicians and medical students to continue to provide high-quality medical care to children in medically underserved areas of our region for years to come. It is still the case that many of the families whose children benefit from these services often have nowhere else to turn for care.”

Families in West Virginia face some of the most serious health problems in the country, including high rates of obesity, diabetes and dental disease, and the rural geography often makes accessing services difficult. The new mobile medical clinic was built to deliver care where the need is, providing primary care services as well as nutrition education and mental health services.

The “doctor’s office on wheels” was built with a special focus on energy efficiency, incorporating sustainable materials into the design.

“We’re proud to support programs that empower communities to improve their health,” said Margaret McKenna, president of the Walmart Foundation. “Our partnership with Children’s Health Fund is making a real difference in the lives of some of our nation’s most medically underserved children.”

The funds for the medical mobile unit are part of a \$925,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation that also includes expanded dental services in Arkansas and medical services in Memphis, Tenn.; the introduction of electronic health records in Baton Rouge, La.; and mental health services in southern Arizona.

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Children’s Health Fund

Founded in 1987 by singer/songwriter Paul Simon and pediatrician/advocate Irwin Redlener, M.D., Children’s Health Fund (CHF) is the nation’s leading pediatric provider of mobile-based health care for homeless and low-income children and their families. CHF’s mission is to bring health care directly to those in need through the development and support of innovative medical programs, response to public health crises, and the promotion of guaranteed access to health care for all children. CHF currently has 50 mobile medical clinics serving hundreds of locations across the country. Over the past 24 years, the organization has supported more than two million health care visits for disadvantaged children, often in places where doctors and health care providers are in short supply. For more information about CHF, visit www.childrenshealthfund.org.

West Virginia Children’s Health Project

The West Virginia Children’s Health Project (WVCHP) provides comprehensive primary care to children and adolescents living in Wayne, Lincoln and Cabell counties in the rural areas of southwestern West Virginia. Established 1992 in cooperation with Children’s Health Fund and Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University, the WVCHP provides pediatric care to patients during weekly visits to school sites aboard a state-of-the-art mobile medical clinic. In addition to comprehensive primary care, the WVCHP clinicians make referrals for sub-specialty care and dental care; provide case management services; and deliver health and nutrition education.

Walmart Foundation

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are proud to support the charitable causes that are important to customers and associates in their own neighborhoods. The Walmart Foundation funds initiatives focused on education, workforce development, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness. From Feb. 1, 2009,

through Jan. 31, 2010, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation gave more than \$512 million in cash and in-kind gifts globally, \$467 million of which was donated in the U.S. To learn more, visit www.walmartfoundation.org.

Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine

Part of Marshall University, West Virginia's oldest public higher education institution, the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine provides nationally accredited graduate and professional education with a focus on meeting the state's need for primary care physicians. The school has leading-edge competitive research programs relevant to the health care needs of the state and region, and its physicians provide extensive health-care services ranging from primary care to subspecialty services unique to the region. To further meet the needs of people in rural areas of the state, the school's departments and Robert C. Byrd Center for Rural Health provide outreach services such as the West Virginia Children's Health Project mobile medical clinic, school-based health and dental care, diabetes coalition development and support, and telemedicine.