



## **Children's Health Fund Announces Multi-Million Dollar Maternal Child Health Center in the South Bronx**

### **Innovative New Model of Care Focusing on Pre-Natal, Birth to Age Five, to Improve Long-Term Outcomes, to Be Funded by Public and Private Grants**

New York, NY (May 27, 2010) Children's Health Fund (CHF) announced that it is breaking ground to create a multi-million dollar center for maternal child health in the South Bronx in partnership with Montefiore Medical Center (MMC). The center's new model of care will focus on the unique health care needs of women of childbearing age and children 0 to 5 years of age, in order to improve the long-term outcomes for patients.

CHF and MMC have a 20-year track record of collaborating to provide excellence in medical care to thousands of children and families in some of the most disadvantaged urban communities in New York City.

This new center is an extension of the Children's Health Fund's current program in the South Bronx, one of the most resource-poor urban communities in the nation. The South Bronx Health Center for Children and Families, a partnership between CHF and MMC, is a community-based health center for ambulatory care, offering some of the most comprehensive primary care in the South Bronx for low-income children and families, regardless of their ability to pay. It is currently serving the poorest of our nation's 435 Congressional Districts, a federally-recognized health professional shortage area, with 42.2% of its residents living below the poverty level.

The new center, scheduled to open in November 2010, will focus on the unique health care needs of women of childbearing age and children 0 to 5 years of age, enhancing the current program's capacity by 50%, from 5,500 patients a year to 8,200 through 46,000 patient visits. It will develop a new innovative model of care, and expand on existing maternal and child health programs including, group care models where expectant and postpartum women are supported by each other along with medical providers to monitor their physical and mental health in a supportive environment.

The new health center will be located directly across the street from the current program in the South Bronx, on the first floor of a housing complex for low-income families. A multi-disciplinary team will meet the Center's unique needs and include a pediatrician director with a specialty in developmental and behavioral pediatrics, a women's health specialist, a child psychologist, psychiatrist, social worker, case manager and nutritionist. All services will be increased, including nutrition, pediatrics, women's health and prenatal care, management of chronic diseases and integrated primary and mental health services.

The Federal government has contributed a total of \$1.4 million to the center from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), funding to support community health centers nationwide. Additional public funds came from the offices of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. Vital private supporters include American Idol/ Idol Gives Back Foundation, Deerfield Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, ACE Charitable Foundation and individuals.

Children's Health Fund (CHF) ([www.childrenshealthfund.org](http://www.childrenshealthfund.org)) - Founded in 1987 by singer/songwriter Paul Simon and pediatrician/advocate Irwin Redlener, MD, 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. Teams of dedicated medical professionals in CHF's 24 pediatric programs in 15 states and the District of Columbia have brought essential primary care services through more than 2 million patient visits.

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