



Central Valley Health Network

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Central Valley Health Centers Celebrate National Health Center Week

FRESNO, Calif., August 10, 2009—The Central Valley Health Network joins more than 1,200 Community Health Centers nationwide to observe National Health Center Week, starting August 9th through August 16th. The purpose of this week-long observance is to recognize the importance of Community Health Centers in providing access to affordable, high quality health care to an underserved segment of the U.S. population. Locally, dozens of Central Valley health center sites will offer health services, screenings, education, and information on wellness and chronic disease prevention.

“Now more than ever we need to recognize the vital role Health Centers play in the Central Valley and beyond,” said David Quackenbush, CEO, Central Valley Health Network. “They provide quality, affordable care to millions who might not otherwise have access to medical care.”

This year’s observance comes in the midst of the largest cuts to vital health care services and programs that have severely impacted health centers throughout California, particularly in the Central Valley. Community Health Centers serve more than 600,000 people annually in the Valley, and have 2.5 million patient visits. Their role is indispensable in the region, which has 31% fewer primary care physicians and 51% fewer specialists than the rest of the state.

Among the many benefits of Community Health Centers is that they provide a medical home to individuals who would otherwise go without care or seek costlier care in hospital emergency rooms. They offer community residents access to a broad range of medical services, and encourage ongoing preventive and routine care. Furthermore, health centers provide quality care and have been recognized as models for screening, diagnosing and managing chronic disease.

A full schedule of health center events can be viewed at www.cvhncinics.org/calendar/events.asp.

About the Central Valley Health Network

Central Valley Health Network (CVHN) is a consortium of 13 Federally Qualified Health Center corporations that provide comprehensive preventive primary care services and advocate on behalf of low-income and medically underserved families throughout the Central Valley of California. CVHN members are the medical home for families with many members providing medical, dental, pharmacy, and mental health services. CVHN has 124 sites in 21 counties that provide 2.5 million encounters to over 600,000 patients annually of whom 77% are at or below 100% of federal poverty level, 49% Medi-Cal, 35% uninsured, 74% Latino, and 40% farmworkers.

For more information about CVHN, visit www.cvhncinics.org or call (559) 255-4300.