



## Central Valley Health Network

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### **Binational Health Week Reaches 10-year milestone**

*Activities This Year Highlight Increased Demand for Community Health Center Services*

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**Sacramento, CA** –Community health centers throughout the Central Valley will join providers of more than 30 states in the United States and 3 provinces in Canada to participate in Binational Health Week, starting October 4 through October 14. Participants will offer health services, free screenings, education, and information on wellness and chronic disease prevention.

Binational Health Week (BHW) is an annual effort by federal and state government agencies, community-based organizations and volunteers in the Americas to improve the health and well-being of the underserved Latino population living in the United States.

This year, in its tenth anniversary, the weeklong series of activities sheds light on the increasing number of people that rely on health centers every day for their health care needs.

“With communities hard hit by unemployment and the recession, and more individuals and families shut out of preventive care, the work of our community health centers today is more important than ever,” said David Quackenbush, CEO of the Central Valley Health Network (CVHN), a network of federally qualified health centers. Health center members have received \$13 million in funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act).

“These funds are both recognition that our model is cost-efficient and effective in producing positive health outcomes, and an opportunity to expand our centers’ capabilities in order to serve more patients and strengthen the health care safety net,” Quackenbush said.

CVHN health centers provide primary care to low-income and medically underserved families throughout the Central Valley, serving more than half a million patients annually at more than 100 health center sites in 19 counties. In many communities, they offer local residents the only access to health care services.

During this year's Binational Health Week, five national campaigns will be implemented to promote awareness among the underserved Latino community: Prevention of Addictions and Gang Involvement among Adolescents, Oral Health, Obesity and Diabetes, Disabilities and Autism Awareness, and Access to Health Care.

The inaugural event and Policy Forum on Migration and Health will be held in Guanajuato, Mexico, and closing ceremonies are scheduled in Sacramento, California.

A full schedule of health center events can be viewed at <http://www.cvhnclinics.org/calendar/events.asp>.

#### **About the Central Valley Health Network**

Central Valley Health Network (CVHN) is a consortium of 12 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 more than 100 sites in 19 counties that provide 2.3 million encounters to over 500,000 patients annually of whom 77% are at or below 100% of federal poverty level, 49% Medi-Cal recipients, 35% uninsured, 74% Latino, and 40% farm workers.

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