



September 2014

During National Health Center Week, August 10-16, our Congressional representatives, state legislators, insurance providers, navigators, Community Health Center patients and providers, and community members in Vermont and New Hampshire came out to enjoy various Health Center events. It was rewarding to see so many people interested in accessing the primary and preventive health care services available to them in their own communities!

Thank you for joining us during this annual event celebrating the good news that Health Centers provide integrated health care services to more than 22 million people nationwide. We greatly appreciate the bipartisan support of all our representatives.

Sincerely,

[Tess Stack Kuenning, CNS, MS, RN](#)
President and Chief Executive Officer

National Health Center Week Highlights



NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK, 2014 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA A PROCLAMATION

In the United States of America, no one should have to live in poverty just because they get sick. Families deserve quality, affordable health care and the peace of mind that comes with it -- regardless of who they are, where they live, or what language they speak. Today, nearly 1,300 health centers provide primary care and preventive services at over 9,000 locations across our country. During National Health Center Week, we acknowledge health centers' vital role, and we salute the professionals who work long hours to deliver these essential services. [READ MORE](#)



Sen. Leahy (center) with Grace Gilbert-Davis, CEO (left), and staff at Battenkill Valley Health Center

At Battenkill Valley Health Center, recently designated as a Federally Qualified Health Center in Vermont, Sen. Leahy offered encouraging remarks. "Keep doing it, because you're going to make life better for your neighbors," he said to [Battenkill Valley Health Center](#) Board of Trustees. "The resources that come to the Health Center, that doesn't just happen. It happens with great leadership," said Tess Kuenning, president and CEO of Bi-State Primary Care Association. Reported by the [Bennington Banner](#)

EVENT PICTURES: [Battenkill Valley Health Center](#)

MORE NEWS: [Bi-State Primary Care Association](#)

Vermont Health Center Week

[Safe Harbor Medical Center Opens its Doors for a Tour](#)



Safe Harbor Staff

"A clinic that serves some of Burlington's neediest residents celebrated several milestones this week. Safe Harbor, Vermont's only federally funded homeless health care provider, held tours of the [Health Center] in honor of National Health Center Week. The event also celebrated 10 years at its full-sized clinic on South Winooski Avenue after operating out of single room at Committee on Temporary Shelter's Day Station," reported the Bennington Banner. "[Safe Harbor](#) is like every good thing," Alison Calderara, Safe Harbor Director of Community Relations and

Development, said. "It starts with a little seed of something and grows." The Homeless Health Care Program began in 1989 with a federal grant for free care for the homeless. The program is the state's sole recipient of these funds. [READ MORE](#)

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New Hampshire Health Center Week



Gov. Hassan at Lamprey Health Care

Governor Hassan launched the NH Protection Program from [Lamprey Health Care](#) in Nashua and from [Families First Health and Support Center](#) in Portsmouth during Health Center Week.

"Community Health Centers across our state have always worked to expand the reach of primary and preventive care, especially

to medically underserved populations," Governor Hassan said. "With expansion, they will continue to play a critical role in ensuring that Granite Staters receive the care that they need and deserve and they are also playing an important role in our outreach efforts to help people learn about and apply for health care coverage. I am honored to proclaim Community Health Center Week in New Hampshire to recognize their important contributions to the health and well-being of our people." [READ MORE](#)



Rep. Shea-Porter Tours Conway Health Center

Rep. Carol Shea-Porter tests the medical equipment while touring [White Mountain Community Health Center](#). For more than an hour, Rep. Shea-Porter listened to staff, navigators, and patients about their experiences providing care, helping the community enroll in health insurance, and two compelling stories about the difference it made in the lives of two families who were able to access affordable health insurance. PHOTO: *Rep. Shea-Porter with clinician*

Navigators Ready to Assist in their Communities



Center

[Manchester Community Health Center](#), [HealthFirst Family Care Center](#), and [Goodwin Community Health](#) held Outreach and Enrollment fairs to educate residents about the NH Health Protection Program (enrollment is open year round) and provided information about the Qualified Health Plans in the NH Health Insurance Marketplace (open enrollment begins Nov. 15, 2014). PHOTO: *Navigators at Manchester Community Health*



Health Center Week Tours of New Dental, Oral Health Centers at [Mid-State Health Center](#) in Bristol, and [Ammonoosuc Community Health Services](#) in Littleton. Contact the Health Centers to learn more about their new dental centers. PHOTO: *Mid-State provides oral health services in Bristol*



[Bi-State Primary Care Association](#) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization formed in 1986 to promote access to effective and affordable primary care and preventive services for all, with special emphasis on underserved populations in VT and NH. Bi-State works with federal, state, and regional health policy organizations and policymakers, foundations, and payers to develop strategies, policies, and programs that promote and sustain community-based, primary health care services.

With offices in Bow, NH, and Montpelier, VT, Bi-State provides strategic advocacy, technical assistance, education and training, networking opportunities, and resource and information

services. www.bistatepca.org

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