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Neighborhood Health Celebrates New Center on Richmond Highway

By STEVE HUNT

Staff Writer

For 18 years, Neighborhood Health has been providing healthcare services open to everyone providing a medical home for low-income, underinsured and uninsured children and adults in need of primary medical, behavioral and dental health care. Thursday, Neighborhood Health (formerly Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc.) hosted a reception to celebrate its new health center at 6677 Richmond Highway at Beacon Hill. In 2014, Neighborhood Health, which operates nine clinical sites — five in the city of Alexandria, two in Arlington and two in Fairfax counties — and served more than 15,000 individuals through 46,647 health care visits.



Staff photo/Steve Hunt

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8th), second from right, was taken on a tour of the Neighborhood Health primary health care center Thursday evening by Neighborhood Health executive director Basim Khan, MD, right, and board president Keith Hearle, and accompanied by Beyer aide Lisa Jacobs.

Once renovated, the new center, located in the former Metrocall building, will house 15 medical exam rooms, eight dental chairs and five counseling areas and will dramatically increase its capacity to serve

30,000 new patients through more than 125,000 additional health visits by 2019. In welcoming special guest U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8th) to the event, Neighborhood Health executive director Basim Khan, MD, pointed out that Beyer is very familiar with its operations and services having first become involved in the organization 14 years ago. “That is what I call commitment,” Khan said. For many of the underserved, Khan said Neighborhood Health is the only place they can get basic primary health care, to include dental and behavioral care services. Khan also noted that out of 1,200 health centers nationally, Neighborhood Health was recently recognized by the Health Resources Services Administration as a National Quality Leader, a recognition extended to only 57 health centers across the country for exceeding national benchmarks for chronic disease management and preventative care. Board of Directors’ President Keith Hearle noted that Neighborhood Health has grown significantly in the past few years and the Richmond Highway center will be an anchor location for years to come as they embark on a fundraising campaign to complete the planned renovation, having already received \$1 million in pledges. Beyer said it was then-ANSI development director Nyrma Hernandez, who still holds that position with Neighborhood Health, who in 2001 woke me up” to the tremendous need for health care services for low-income residents of Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax, which has become today what he described as “an empire for good.” And with nearly 50,000 visits last year, Beyer commented “that’s pretty darn cool.” But, Beyer is also well aware that Neighborhood Health’s efforts are only “scratching the surface” of the need for affordable health care services throughout northern Virginia. While Hearle declined to ask for money that evening for the Neighborhood Health renovations, Beyer was not, noting that the goal is \$5 million in the next four years. According to Neighborhood Health, their services are needed now more than ever as access to care barriers and poverty is ever present within this region, where throughout northern Virginia there are more than 170,000 uninsured individuals. At the conclusion of the program, past board president Gene Kendall and past board member Lynwood Campbell presented Beyer with an award in appreciation of his leadership, generosity and long term commitment to Neighborhood Health.



Staff photos/Steve Hunt

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8th) was recognized for his commitment to Neighborhood Health by, from left, board president Keith Hearle, past board member Lynwood Campbell and past board president Gene Kendall