



For Release 9:00 p.m.

April 9, 2014

Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc (ANHSI) (ANHSI) Announces Launch of the Wellness on Wheels Bus (WOW) in Partnership with Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS)

Alexandria, VA— April 9, 2014 — Today, in partnership with Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc (ANHSI) hosted a reception at Patrick Henry Elementary School to celebrate the launch of the Wellness on Wheels Bus known as the “WOW Bus”. The WOW Bus provides mobile health services to children who attend John Adams, Patrick Henry and William Ramsay Elementary Schools. The WOW bus is staffed with licensed healthcare professionals from ANHSI who provide basic primary health care including physical exams, pediatric medical care, routine dental procedures and behavioral health services to children at the three schools.

The WOW reception was attended by many government and community leaders, including State Senators George Barker and Barbara Favola and City Council member Justin Wilson, all of whom expressed their commitment to school-based health services and pledged to continue their support for these essential services. Debra Collins, Assistant City Manager in Alexandria, was also in attendance, who has expressed her strong support for onsite health services in elementary schools.

In 2012, Health Resources and Services Administration, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, awarded ACPS a \$380,771 grant to start a mobile unit to serve the three schools. Through a competitive grant process in 2013, ACPS contracted with ANHSI to provide the Mobile Health Van health care services.

Ingrid Bynum, Principal at the Patrick Henry Elementary School, commented on the day to day health care needs of students and how much she welcomes the opportunity to have access to onsite primary health care services. She reminded attendees of research that shows that better

access to health care reduces the number of school days children miss and costly and often unnecessary emergency room visits.

ANHSI is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit federally qualified community health center (FQHC) that provides accessible, coordinated, community-based primary health care, including behavioral and dental health, to people in Alexandria, Arlington and Southeast Fairfax County. With 11 practice sites today in Northern Virginia, ANHSI served 14,036 patients in CY2013 through 48,079 health care visits.

April 9, 2014 Availability

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