

Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers Receives Grant Award from Osteopathic Heritage Foundations for Patient Transportation Program

WHITEHALL, Ohio—Thanks to a \$38,858 grant from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations 2010 Capital Improvement Initiative, Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers has purchased a van to transport patients to specialist physician appointments, OB/GYN appointments at our Whitehall facility, and to pick up specialty prescriptions. Purchased in June, the van is also utilized for door-to-door health care events, health fairs and local community events. In addition, the grant funding equipped the van with two portable Datascoptes which are used to help diagnose hypertension and other potential cardiac concerns.

“This transportation program is making health care more accessible to patients,” Project Facilitator Deanna LaBianca said. “One patient in particular comes to Whitehall for primary care and for management of her diabetes. She had been missing appointments and consequently was out of her insulin medication by the time she was able to make an appointment again. Upon learning that she had walked almost three miles in an Ohio winter to get to that appointment we immediately enrolled her in our Transportation Program. With the help of our program, she now makes her appointments as scheduled and her diabetes is well controlled. She does not speak much English, but she is always sure to make her gratification for the transportation clear with the phrases she does know.”

Since opening its first health center seven years, Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers has been working with people in need. It serves as a medical home for more than 3,500 patients annually and accepts all types of health insurance including Medicaid and Medicare.

“Our health centers specialize in providing quality, comprehensive health care to the people in our community, CEO Joy Parker said. “More than 25% of our patients lack reliable transportation. One-third of all patients need help getting prescriptions. This vehicle helps patients who have no other available means of transportation,” she said.

In addition to providing patient transportation, this van will help take health care to the community. Throughout the year, Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers’ staff will go door-to-door to assess the healthcare needs of the city’s most economically challenged residents. Staff will be conducting health assessment surveys as well as distributing information on local health and wellness services, vision care resources, dental care resources, and diabetes screening information.

Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers operates two federally qualified health centers in Central Ohio: Whitehall Family Health Center and Capital Park Family Health Center. In October, Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers will break ground on a new 17,500 sq. ft. facility which will replace the existing Capital Park Family Health Center located at 2150 Agler Rd, thanks to \$4.4 million in economic stimulus funding from the Department of Health and Human Services. The new healthcare facility will be located on Innis Road in Columbus, less than 1 mile from the current facility, and is scheduled to open in August 2011.

The mission of Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers is to provide high-quality, holistic and sensitive care to meet the healthcare needs of our community, where we honor

every person with loving service. For more information, please visit us on the web at www.heartofohiofamilyhealthcenters.org.

About the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations

The Osteopathic Heritage Foundation and the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation of Nelsonville (the Foundations) are pre-eminent in supporting community health and quality of life programs in central and southeastern Ohio as well as advancing, on a national scope, osteopathic medical care, biomedical research and osteopathic medical education. Since 2008, the Foundation has approved \$954,000 in support of capital projects for non-profit organizations that provide critical health and social services to vulnerable Franklin County residents, including at-risk children and youth, low-income older adults, individuals with disabilities, and at-risk families and individuals. The mission of the Foundation is to improve the health and quality of life in the community through education, research and service consistent with the principles of its osteopathic heritage and the philosophy of osteopathic medical care. The Foundations advance this mission through a broad spectrum of funding awards, initiatives and funding methods.