

Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers Breaks Ground on \$4.4 Million Health Center Funded by Federal Stimulus Package

COLUMBUS, Ohio— On October 12, Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers held a Groundbreaking Ceremony to kick-off the construction of the new Capital Park Family Health Center to be built at 2635 Innis Road, Columbus. The new 17,500 sq. ft. facility, scheduled to open in August 2011, will replace the existing health center located at 2150 Agler Road, less than a mile from the new facility site.

The \$4.4 million construction project is made possible by economic stimulus funding from the Department of Health and Human Services. Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers was one of only 85 applicants to be awarded Facility Investment Program (FIP) stimulus funding out of 600 applications nationwide during the first round of stimulus grants.

Speakers at the event included Charleta Tavares, Columbus City Council; Senator Ray Miller; Mark Bell from Congressman Pat Tiberi's office; Ed Roberts from Senator Sherrod Brown's office; Whitney Secrest from Franklin County Commissioner Paula Brooks office; and Randy Runyon, President of Ohio Association of Community Health Centers.

"The new Capital Park Family Health Center will provide quality health care in a beautiful facility," Charleta Tavares said. "It is for anyone in the community who is looking for a healthcare provider," she said.

"The new Capital Park Family Health Center will increase primary care services for all individuals, infants through seniors," Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers Board Chair Marty Miller said. "It will expand health services for the community, promote economic recovery, and serve as a regional example of environmentally friendly operations," she said.

The new facility will enable Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers to serve an additional 3,175 patients, improve operational efficiency, and enhance quality of care by increasing from six to 15 medical exam rooms. Additional services will be provided including: OB/GYN services, limited pharmacy services, behavioral health and, in the future, dental services.

"This increased access will mean more community residents are able to find a medical home instead of using hospital emergency services for their routine medical needs," Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers CEO Joy Parker said.

"If it was not for Dr. Soni and the Capital Park Family Health Center, I might not be alive today," Lisa Hunter, a patient who spoke at the Groundbreaking Ceremony, said. "I came to Capital Park Family Health Center for what I thought was a throat infection in January 2007. Dr. Soni was very concerned when she checked my tonsils and said she did not believe that it was an infection but a growth, and she referred me to a specialist. I had been to at least two other clinics in the city that treated it like an infection. After getting a biopsy, it revealed that Dr. Soni's suspicions were correct. I was diagnosed with

Lymphoma, a cancer of the lymphatic system. Thanks to Dr. Soni, Dr. Christian, and most of all, God, I am cancer free and alive today. This is a good example of the competent and valuable medical service that people have been receiving from Capital Park Family Health Center," she said.

The new Capital Park Family Health Center has been carefully designed to pursue LEED certification upon completion. The process to achieve this prestigious and advanced rating includes integrating advanced green/sustainable design features targeting energy and water efficiency.

"These kinds of projects have tremendous value for the community beyond providing health care," Mark Bell said. "It improves the neighborhood, provides jobs and makes the area surrounding it a great place to live and raise a family."

Local sponsors of Heart of Ohio Family Health Center's Groundbreaking Ceremony include CareSource, OfficeMax and OMWorkspace, and Kroger.