



## NEPONSET HEALTH CENTER

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### **Neponset Health Center, Marks National Health Center Week 2008 By Honoring its own “Health Care Heroes”**

Dorchester, MA- **Neponset Health Center** today kicks off *National Health Center Week 2008* (August 10 – 16), a national campaign dedicated to recognizing the service and contributions of America’s Community Health Centers. The special focus for this year’s *National Health Center Week (NHCW)* is a new health center plan to create more health care homes in the future for all and to honor the health care “heroes” at existing health centers today. The health care heroes are health center doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other health professionals who have chosen to serve in communities in need, helping to expand the reach of primary care and preventive health services.

“Our health care heroes at the Neponset Health Center work hard every day at providing people in the community a health care home so they can stay healthy and out of hospitals,” said Daniel J. Driscoll, President and CEO of Harbor Health Services, Inc. parent agency of Neponset Health Center. “*National Health Center Week* is a time that we set aside not only to recognize the work of health centers, but also to spread the message that America needs to invest in an accessible and affordable community health system that can reduce disparities, improve health, and achieve cost savings in health and prevention.”

Events marking *NHCW* include health fairs, press conferences, and visits by local, state, and national leaders to health centers in their community. The celebration comes as health centers launch a collective effort to reach the goals of a bold new plan called ACCESS for All America to serve 30 million people by the year 2015. Right now there are 56 million people—many of them with health insurance—who

are struggling without access to basic health care because of a local shortage of primary care doctors, according to the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC). With the ACCESS plan, health centers, which now serve as the health care home for over 17 million patients nationwide, can nearly double their reach and bridge the widening gap between the demand for primary health care services and available supply.

The Neponset Health Center is a proud supporter of *National Health Center Week 2008* and the ACCESS for All America plan” said Nancy Bucken, Executive Director at the Neponset Health Center. “Imagine the difference we can make by giving more people access to a health care home so they can stay healthy and out of hospitals. The payoff is lower health care costs, and healthier, more productive communities. We are committed to doing our part in seeing this plan become a reality in our community and state.”

There are 6,300 health center delivery sites in urban and rural communities in all 50 states and territories. Health centers save the health care system up to \$17.6 billion a year and have drawn top ratings as one of the most highly effective federal programs by the White House Office of Management and Budget. By doubling the number of patients served as projected in the ACCESS plan, health centers can generate savings as high as \$40.7 billion in the next 8 years.

Also, for the first time ever, NHCW sets aside two days to focus on special populations who are often left outside of the mainstream health care system. Health Care for the Homeless Day will be observed on Wednesday, August 13th, and the first ever Farmworker Health Day will be observed on Thursday, August 14th, 2008.

For more about the ACCESS for All America plan visit [www.nachc.com](http://www.nachc.com). For more information about National Health Center Week visit [www.healthcenterweek.org](http://www.healthcenterweek.org).