

Governor Deval Patrick joins the Lynn Community Health Center for groundbreaking

On Monday, the Lynn Community Health Center broke ground on a two-story, 29,300 square-foot expansion of its facility on Union Street. Governor Deval Patrick, Mayor Judith Flanagan Kennedy, Congressman John Tierney, Senator Thomas McGee and other elected officials joined funders, financial partners, and community members to celebrate the launch of the project.

Lori Abrams Berry, LCHC Executive Director, announced a \$3 million grant from Partners HealthCare, the lead grant toward the \$11 Million project. "Partners HealthCare and North Shore Medical Center have been our champions for more than a decade, and the work we have done together has truly improved health care access and care for children and adults served by the health center. This has been an invaluable partnership," she said.

"For over 40 years, community health center have been on the front lines in the effort to provide quality healthcare at an affordable cost," said Governor Deval Patrick. "Now they are providing a critical piece of the solution to the health care challenge that we face today. Residents of

Lynn are fortunate to have such a vibrant resource that is growing and changing in response to community need."

"The Lynn Community Health Center is one of this City's greatest assets, and is leading the way in providing patient care that is easily accessible, of extraordinary quality, and incredibly cost effective. The health center has been extremely effective in making Massachusetts health reform work for the patients we serve, and we are pleased and honored to provide funding for the health center's much needed expansion," said Gary L. Gottlieb, MD, MBA, President and CEO of Partners HealthCare.

The Health Center also received \$1.3 Million in federal stimulus funding and in accessing \$2.5 Million in New Markets Tax Credits through MassDevelopment. Magnolia Contreras, Chair of the Health Center's Capital Campaign, announced that over \$340,000 in additional funding has been raised from individuals, corporations and foundations and that a major fundraising effort is now underway.

The Lynn Community Health Center is the medical home to more than 33,000 patients and 45% of children who live in the



City. It has over 380 staff, including 70 clinicians, who provide primary medical care, dental services, behavioral health, eye care services, and specialty care.

Since moving to its 269 Union St. site in 1993, LCHC has seen exponential growth in the number of patients needing services. In the past two years an average

of 400 new patients each month have passed through its doors. This expansion project will enable the Health Center to expand urgent care, behavioral health, laboratory, and radiology services; hire 4 additional primary care providers who will provide care for 4000 new patients a year; centralize registration to provide more accessible and ef-

ficient assistance to patients; and build a second-story shell that will enable future development.

LCHC's expansion project is the first new construction in Lynn's Central Business Districts in decades. Over 100 jobs will be created, both in construction of the new facility, and in permanent healthcare jobs in our community.