

2007 Uninsured Campaign Focuses on America's Children

Columbus, OHIO - Ten years ago Congress created the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). "The program was designed to ensure that kids, whose parents work but have no insurance, have access to primary and preventative healthcare," according to Carl Walters II., Chief Executive Officer of Columbus Neighborhood Health Center, Inc. The 2007 Cover The Uninsured Week (April 23-29) will highlight the success of SCHIP. Every year over 3 million children covered by SCHIP receive care in America's health centers.

"In 2006, our network provided comprehensive, integrated and affordable primary care services to over 19,000 Columbus families, many of whom have children between the ages of 0-18. Over 65% of these families had limited to no insurance coverage for their primary care services and these numbers will only rise" Walters said. "The face of America's poor has changed in the last decade. Today, the face of America's poor includes many highly-educated, fully employed individuals who simply cannot afford the rising cost of health insurance. Increasingly, the people relying on services provided by community health centers will look more and more like you and me."

"Coverage is critical, but so is access. Community health centers provide affordable primary and preventative health care in over 900 neighborhoods throughout the U. S. and yet over 56 million Americans have no access to health care," Walters said. "This is a challenge we have to continue to address. It is paramount to begin listening to the groundswell and participate in the noise campaign. When the pain, caused by the uninsured, is great enough to produce a movement, American families may not have to choose between food and healthcare."

Columbus Neighborhood Health Center, Inc. (CNHC) is a nonprofit Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and a proud member of the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers and the National Association of Community Health Centers. To find out more about CNHC and the services they provide, go to www.colnhc.org. For more information about Cover the Uninsured Week, go to www.CoverTheUninsured.org. For more information about Ohio's SCHIP go to jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/bcps/schip.

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