

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NJPCA and the Network of Federally Qualified Health Centers  
Celebrate  
National Women's Health Week – May 9-15, 2010**



Hamilton, NJ – Sunday, May 9, 2010 is Mother's Day and the beginning of National Women's Health Week (NWHW). The New Jersey Primary Care Association (NJPCA), the membership and advocacy organization for the 20 federally qualified health centers in New Jersey, is acknowledging the importance of women's health through health fairs

# NJPCA

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New Jersey Primary Care Association, Inc.

**Katherine Grant-Davis**  
**President and CEO**

and health events, school-based activities, a women's day brunch, and a host of other activities.

Newark Community Health Centers will "kick-off" National Women's Health Week on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> with screening activities and workshops on hypertension, breast cancer and diabetes. Health centers with scheduled activities throughout the week are Eric B. Chandler Health Center in New Brunswick, Southern Jersey Family Medical Centers in Hammonton, CAMcare in Camden and Monmouth Family Health Center in Long Branch. NWHW will culminate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual community day sponsored by Central VNA Community Health Center in Asbury Park on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Free food and health screenings will take place throughout the day.

On May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, NJPCA will sponsor full-day HIV/AIDS Prevention activities at Malcolm X Shabazz and Barringer High Schools respectively, both located in Newark. The program is being coordinated through Jewish Renaissance Medical Center, a federally qualified health center in Perth Amboy that oversees the operation of five school-based health centers in Newark, two of which are located at Shabazz and Barringer High Schools. The HIV/AIDS Prevention Program will target 9<sup>th</sup> grade girls at the two high schools and will take place from 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

On Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, the NJPCA will sponsor the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Women as Health Advocates Awards Brunch at the Trenton Marriott Hotel from 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. Dr. Poonam Alaigh, Commissioner at the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, will serve as the keynote speaker and honoree for National Women's Health Week celebration brunch. Following the keynote, the following health advocates will be honored: Senator Jennifer Beck; Assemblywoman Sheila Oliver; Nekia Lewis of Horizon NJ Health; Raquel Mazon Jeffers of the New Jersey Department of Human Services; Nancy Pinkin of MBI GluckShaw; and Rudine Smith, CEO at Neighborhood Health Center Plainfield.

In 2009, New Jersey's 20 federally qualified health centers served 422,812 patients at 100 sites throughout 19 counties. Approximately 60 percent of all patients were women. The majority of the women are low-income and uninsured who lack access to health care through traditional avenues. State statistics show diabetes, stroke, HIV/AIDS and other diseases strike women in New Jersey at an alarming rate. "FQHCs play a major role in improving women's health through screening and early intervention, says Katherine Grant-Davis, President and CEO at New Jersey Primary Care Association.

National Women's Health Week embodies a national effort by an alliance of government organizations to raise awareness about manageable steps women can take to improve their health. One of the goals of the health centers is to improve the overall health of women in New Jersey by identifying resources that will aid them in adopting and living healthy lifestyles. For further information on activities at New Jersey's health center

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sites during NWHW, visit the website at [www.4woman.gov/whw/](http://www.4woman.gov/whw/) or contact Leslie Morris at 609-689-9930.