

Bread for the City

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BREAD FOR THE CITY BREAKS GROUND

ON MAJOR EXPANSION OF NORTHWEST CENTER MEDICAL CLINIC

Washington, DC--Bread for the City kicked off construction on a major expansion of its Northwest Center, which provides food, medical care, legal counsel, and comprehensive social services. Bread for the City Executive Director George A. Jones was joined by Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Councilmember David Catania (I-At Large), and DC Primary Care Association (DCPCA) Chief Executive Officer Sharon A. Baskerville, in celebration of the groundbreaking.

“For those for whom there is a constant recession, Bread for the City does it all,” said Congresswoman Norton, who thanked Bread for the City and the DCPCA for expanding access to medical care for DC’s poor.

The bulk of the financing for the expansion is provided as part of the DCPCA’s Medical Homes DC Capital Projects initiative, which is funded by the Government of the District of Columbia.

“Health care is a right, not a privilege,” said DCPCA’s Sharon Baskerville, “and if you’ve seen the distance we’ve come in the last 30 years, you know what a momentous occasion this is.”

“We’re not just going to have a good health care safety net in DC, not just a great one – we’re going to have the best in the country,” continued Councilmember Catania, who chairs DC’s Committee on Health.

The primary feature of the expanded facility is a new medical clinic with twice as many exam rooms, a bigger and better laboratory, family-friendly waiting space, and greater accessibility for patients with limited mobility. The expansion will nearly triple Bread for the City’s capacity for providing primary health care to uninsured and underinsured DC residents.

In addition to the medical clinic, the expansion will benefit all of Bread for the City’s services. “The new center will double the size of our legal clinic,” Jones notes, “give our social workers their own private space for sensitive meetings, and will relieve our food pantry of its role as an ad hoc storage center. This expansion is a much needed step forward for all of our programs.”

Construction is expected to reach completion in the spring of 2010. The balance of funding for the \$8.25 million capital campaign will be attained through individual, corporate, and foundation grants.

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More information about Bread for the City’s capital campaign is available on its website (www.breadfortheCity.org/capitalcampaign), and ongoing coverage of the clinic’s expansion is published on Bread for the City’s blog (www.breadfortheCity.blogspot.com).

Information about DCPCA’s Medical Homes DC Capital Projects initiative is available at www.dcpca.org.