

# WE CARE

SUMMER 2011 Newsletter

## In This Issue:

- East Orange Celebrates Reopening – Page 1
- Employees Welcome Improvements – Page 1
- Spotlight: Dr. Susan Walsh – Page 2
- Spotlight: Dr. Neveen Elkholly – Page 2
- Employee of the Quarter: Rajan Kanda – Page 2
- HR Corner – Esney Sharpe – Page 3
- NCHC Celebrates Nat'l Women's Health Week – Page 4
- Photo Gallery – Page 4

## East Orange Primary Care Center Celebrates Its New Facelift & Reopening



*Dr. Pamela Clarke, Ph.D., MBA Acting President/Chief Executive Officer & Chief Financial Officer, addresses NCHC staff at East Orange Primary Care Center reopening*

East Orange Primary Care Center reopened on Monday, May 16, 2011, after closing temporarily due to an ongoing \$1.2 million construction project.

Dr. Pamela Clarke, Acting President/Chief Executive Officer & Chief Financial Officer, of Newark Community Health Centers, Inc., along with the senior management team, welcomed NCHC staff and patients back into the state-of-the-art health facility.

“Welcome back everyone and thank you for being so patient,” Clarke said enthusiastically, as staff gathered in one of the new, modern waiting rooms at the 14,800 square-foot facility that has been under construction since last September. “We are moving forward and will be continuing to expand and improve our facilities.”

She recognized the staff of the East Orange Primary Care Center for its work and also thanked the board members for helping make

the addition possible.

The health center at 444 William Street, which provides a variety of comprehensive medical services, resumed its operation following a four-week closure.

The facelift has added six pediatric exam rooms, one specialty exam room, one dental operatory, four nurses’ stations, a conference room, a call center, an employee lounge and an executive suite.

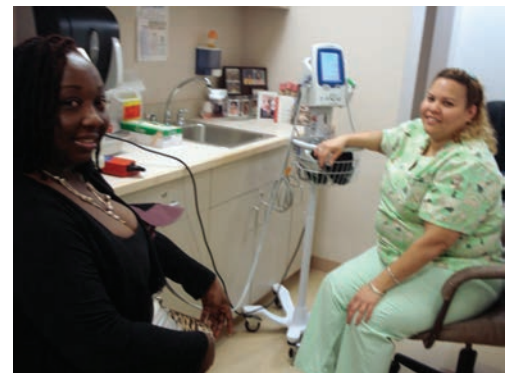
Maria Hernandez, an NCHC board member, was on hand for the reopening. She expressed her excitement and commended the staff for its commitment to ensuring a smooth transition for many patients who were relocated to Orange Community Health Center, one of NCHC’s other sites.

“Without you we would not be where we are right now,” said Hernandez “I applaud each  
*(continued on page 4)*



*Vladina Joseph, a Health Start Coordinator, celebrates the reopening of 444 William Street with Tracie Meyers, a Behavior Health Specialist and Licensed Clinical Social Worker, left and Natalie Colimon, a Medical Case Manager*

## NCHC Employees & Patients Welcome New Improvements



*Migdalia Bonilla, a certified Medical Technician at 444 William Street, welcomes NCHC patient Michelle Downes to the newly reopened health center*

NCHC employees and patients celebrated the reopening of the East Orange Primary Care Center after a temporary closure.

“It feels good to be back home,” said Vladina Joseph, a Health Start coordinator. “The changes are really great for our organization.”

As Joseph walked through the newly painted hallways of the facility, she joined many staff members who were pleased to see the expansion  
*(continued on page 3)*

## NCHC Spotlight: Dr. Susan Walsh Acting Chief Medical Officer Welcomes New Role



Dr. Susan Walsh, the former Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, has a new assignment. She recently was named the acting Chief Medical Officer at Newark Community Health Centers, Inc. (NCHC)

Walsh, who is no stranger to federally qualified health centers, said serving in fqhc's such as NCHC has been apart of her life's work. Throughout her career, she has believed strongly in giving back through service to the community and taking an active role with nonprofit organizations and government.

"I attended medical school through the graces of the National Health Service Corp., which provided a scholarship and which required me to work in an underserved area upon completion of my residency in internal medicine," recalled Walsh, who received her initial training at a fqhc in Hudson County and later worked at the Plainfield Neighborhood Health Services Corp.

Walsh's professional career has followed her deep commitment to serving others, and she worked at the Plainfield health center for 23 years in a variety of roles. She served as the chief medical officer and senior vice president at the Plainfield health center before heading to Trenton.

During her tenure at the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Walsh worked with the state's top nurses and physicians, oversaw the management of the H1N1 pandemic response and continued critical public health initiatives during a time of financial instability.

With all the changes underway in health care, Walsh said it's an exciting time for NCHC and her intent "is to complete the implementation of electronic medical and dental records so that the patients and staff of NCHC can enjoy a state-of-the-art information system. Our goal is to ensure seamless continuity of care across the spectrum for services required for healthier outcomes and a high quality of life." ■

## NCHC Spotlight: Neveen Elkholy, DO Receives Statewide Recognition

Dr. Neveen Elkholy, a passionate leader in family medicine, is the recipient of the 2010 Horizon NJ Health outstanding Quality Service Award. It is presented annually to a physician in recognition of their significant contributions to ensuring access to quality, affordable health care.

Elkholy was one of 20 physicians honored by Horizon NJ Health from across the state.

"This award is an honor and I'm elated," said the physician, who will celebrate her seventh year at Newark Community Health Centers, Inc. in August.



The physician, who works at the Irvington Community Health Center, one of NCHC's six sites, said she is excited to have the opportunity to play a role in serving to fulfill the health center's mission on a daily basis.

"I really enjoy working here because I believe we provide quality care to people who need it most," said the Egyptian born physician. "I

feel extremely rewarded because most of the patients are very appreciative of the care we provide. Receiving this award, in addition to the gratitude I get from my patients, makes me feel greatly appreciated and honored." ■

## NCHC Employee of the Quarter: Rajan Kanda



When Rajan Kanda joined Newark Community Health Centers, Inc. as an extern in 2009, he worked in the mail room, as well as the billing and finance departments.

But what differentiated Kanda from other externs was his hunger to open himself up to new learning experiences.

"Working in various areas provided me with a great opportunity to learn different aspects of the health center's operations," said Kandae, a medical biller at 741 Broadway. He was recently named NCHC's Employee of the Quarter by the organization's Employee Relation's Committee. ■

*(Employees from page 1)*

and improvements following a brief relocation.

The \$1.2 million facelift is designed to increase space at the health center and fulfills Newark Community Health Center’s mission to provide and increase accessibility to affordable, quality health care.

“I love being back home,” said a smiling Migdalia Bonilla, a certified medical technician at East Orange Primary Care Center. “There is more room now and our patients are going to be happier.”



*Dr. Daniel Desriveres shows off his new office to Jean Bien Aime, an NCHC Outreach Representative*

When Michelle Downes, a longtime patient walked into the newly expanded health center, she was pleasantly surprised by the renovations and upgrades.

“This is unbelievable,” said the East Orange resident, who complimented the staff for its dedication to the facility’s patients. “I’ve been coming here since I was in high school and this health center is a resource in our community.”

Downs said she was pleased to see the health center evolve and grow over the years to meet the demands of an increasing number of patients, many of whom are unable to afford insurance.

Joseph Pierre, another patient, said he and his father, Simon Pierre, didn’t mind the temporary closure. “We understand that the center has been under construction. We are pleased.”

Tracie Meyers, a behavioral health specialist, was delighted by facility’s new and cheerful interior colors and design elements. “This is a beautiful facility. Our patients will feel so happy to walk in here.”

Dr. Sebastian Kabiawu, a longtime physician at East Orange Primary Care, said he was thankful for the new design that provides more exam rooms, more space and a brighter environment for patients.

“We have grown tremendously and our new additions and upgrades are a big plus,” said Dr. Kabiawu, as he toured the new pods and exam area. There’s been an increasing demand for additional space for quite a while, he added.

For NCHC’s employees, the reopening marked a joyous occasion for staff and patients too! ■



*Charles Eluwa, NCHC’s Financial Controller, tours the new Internal Medicine suite with Dr. Sebastian Kabiawu*

**HR Corner**

**On The Move...**

Esney Sharpe, a former executive assistant to four NCHC presidents, exudes a true compassion for helping people!

A longtime NCHC cheerleader, she is also delighted about her recent appointment to Manager of Facilities Services.

“I am especially excited because over the years I have seen NCHC grow from one level to the next,” said Sharpe, who also will coordinate all facilities services between the staff, various vendors and site managers. “I am proud to say that I have grown with the company and I understand the vision and the direction in which the organization is going.”

In her new role, Sharpe will continue to oversee the call center, assume the site manager function for the newly renovated 444 William Street site and serve as the “go to” person for facilities services and repairs.

Sharpe believes her diverse career experiences in health care management, sales/marketing, facilities/maintenance, fundraising, finance and education have provided her with solid work ethics and leadership skills to get the job done!

The Orange resident is looking forward to working with leadership and the communities NCHC serves.

“Everyone from every walk of life, deserve to be treated with respect, compassion and given the opportunity to receive what they have come to expect from their medical homes and health-care providers,” said Sharpe, who will continue to serve as the NCHC event coordinator for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk held in October. She also is a cabinet member of the Repairer of the Breach Foundation in Newark, NJ, where she organizes the annual health fair. ■



*Esney Sharpe  
New Manager of Facilities*

**Quality Affordable Health Care for individuals and families**



*(Reopening from page 1)*

of you for your dedication and hard work. You deserve a raise,” she added, ending with a joke.

The expansion project is slated to be completed in mid-June. Currently, Preziosi Construction is completing work on the new dental, OB/GYN and internal medicine exam rooms, suites, several new nurses’ station and a new patient waiting room.

Today, East Orange Primary Care Center stands as a model of a center growing to meet the needs of the community and bringing in federal support to help people unable to pay. ■



*Left to right, Maria Hernandez, NCHC Board Member, joins Esney Sharpe, Manager of Facilities Services; Susan Walsh, Acting Chief Medical Officer; Janice Anderson, Director of Nursing; and Dr. Pamela Clarke, Acting President/Chief Executive Officer & Chief Financial Officer at the reopening*



*The NCHC senior management team celebrates the reopening of 444 William Street*

## NCHC Celebrates National Women’s Health Week



Nekia Lewis, left, Manager of Health Education for Horizon NJ Health, provided an educational talk to observe National Women’s Health Week in May. She is greeted by Joyce Donaldson, (Right) Nurse Manager at the Irvington health center and Mohammad Alsindi, a medical assistant at UMDNJ. The theme was, “Empowerment Hour: It’s Your Time!!!”

“National Women’s Health Week is important because it encourages women to take time for their health,” says Lewis. “Women are often the caregivers for their families and, as a result, forget to make their own health a priority. With National Women’s Health Week, we remind women that they, too, need to visit the doctor, make sure their screenings are up-to-date and just take a minute to think about their health.” ■

**1-800-994-NCHC (6242)**

**[www.nchcfqhc.org](http://www.nchcfqhc.org)**

Newark Community Health Centers, Inc. is a federally qualified health center dedicated to providing affordable, quality health care.

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### NCHC Photo Gallery



*Dr. Faten Morkos speaks with her pastor, Rev. Luke Astafanous Yousef Halim, of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Belleville. She volunteered at a recent health screening, sponsored by NCHC’s Outreach & Marketing Department.*



*NCHC Outreach Representatives Vaudette Southwood, left, Dr. Faten Morkos, center, & Nilsa Santiago*