



October 8, 2014

Peak Vista Medical Provider Honored with Advocacy Award

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – Physician Assistant Greg Morris, longtime Program Director at Peak Vista Community Health Centers Homeless Health Clinic, has been honored as this year’s Outstanding Advocate of the Underserved by the Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS). The award recognizes Morris’ sustained commitment to identifying gaps in healthcare among underserved populations, particularly among El Paso County’s estimated homeless population of 1500, and creating solutions to meet those needs.

“This award is truly an honor and I’m very grateful that our work has been noted,” said Morris. “The impact we’ve made is the result of teamwork, including our staff and providers at our clinic and our partnership with Catholic Charities and other service organizations in the community.”

Morris has championed healthcare for the homeless for almost two decades, taking direction of Peak Vista’s Homeless Clinic in 1997. Since that time he has overseen the expansion of care into an integrated healthcare model that includes primary medical, dental and behavioral health services as well as minor surgeries and preventative exams for women, including Pap smears and mammograms.

Morris’ commitment to research and innovative approach to care led him to sleep on the streets for several days in an effort to determine why chronic homeless individuals were not accessing free healthcare. This research ultimately led to the purchase and utilization of Peak Vista’s Homeless Medical Van, a fully equipped mobile clinic that serves patients in a variety of locations. Greg has received national recognition for his work, including the 2002 National Humanitarian Physician Assistant of the year by the American Academy of Physician Assistants. In 2010 he was named chairman of the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council’s Clinicians Network.

CHAMPS will present the award in Denver on October 20th, in conjunction with the CHAMPS/NWRPCA Annual Primary Care Conference.

About Peak Vista Community Health Centers

Peak Vista Community Health Centers is a non-profit organization whose mission is “to provide exceptional healthcare for people facing access barriers.” Established in 1971, Peak Vista now offers primary medical, dental and behavioral health services to more than 80,000 patients annually in the Pikes Peak region and the East Central Plains. To learn more about Peak Vista, visit www.peakvista.org.

About CHAMPS

The mission of CHAMPS is to provide opportunities for education and training, networking, and workforce development to Region VIII (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming) Community Health Centers so we can better serve our patients and communities. For more information, visit www.champsonline.org/