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Peak Vista Community Health Centers Celebrates National Health Center Week 2015
Part of National Campaign Celebrating 50 Years of Success in Healthcare Delivery

Colorado Springs, Colo. – Peak Vista Community Health Centers is celebrating National Health Center Week 2015 (NHCW), as part of a weeklong campaign (August 9-15) to raise awareness about the mission and accomplishments of America's Health Centers the largest and most successful system of primary healthcare.

Health centers started 50 years ago as a pilot project during President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. Today, they have compiled a significant record of success that includes:

- Reducing income and ethnic health disparities nationwide, even in the poorest and most challenged communities
- Reducing infant mortality rates
- Producing \$24 billion in annual health system savings
- Reducing unnecessary hospitalizations and unnecessary visits to the ER
- Maintaining patient satisfaction levels of nearly 100 percent

Health centers serve more than 23 million people nationwide – that's one in 15 Americans, including 7 million children and 260,000 veterans. Health centers are also increasingly becoming the trusted provider of choice for many families, whether they are insured or not. Evidence shows patients choose health centers because they are convenient, affordable, and offer a range of services from a team of caring professionals. Studies also show the quality of care at a health center is as good or even better than private practices.

"Every day in our waiting rooms we witness the value of having a patient-centered healthcare home," said president and CEO, Pam McManus. "When people have a place to go for regular care, they use it and stay healthier. We provide a range of services onsite – primary medical, dental and behavioral health services. In addition, we also offer pharmacy, laboratory, well-child waiting and enrollment services. Our patients not only get the care they need, but they are treated as individuals, with dignity and respect. This is what healthcare should be, and what we celebrate during National Health Center Week."



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Although local solutions, health centers need sustained federal investment to meet the growing demand for their services and help more Americans gain access to affordable healthcare. To learn more about health centers and the #Access is the Answer campaign please visit the following links:

National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) at www.nachc.org.

www.healthcenterweek.org.

You can also follow the #CHC50 and #NHCW15 hashtags on Twitter.

About Peak Vista Community Health Centers

Peak Vista Community Health Centers is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide exceptional healthcare to people facing access barriers. Established in 1971, Peak Vista now offers primary medical, dental and behavioral health services to more than 82,550 patients annually in the Pikes Peak and the East Central Plains regions. To learn more about Peak Vista, visit peakvista.org.

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