



PRESS RELEASE

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UNITY HEALTH CARE HOST ITS "ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL PHYSICAL DAYS"

Washington, DC - Unity Health Care (Unity) will host its Annual Back to School Physical Days during the month of August to help parents get their school-age children prepared for the start of the school year. "The clinics will have one general focus which is to provide current patients the opportunity to complete all of the requirements ordered by the District of Columbia Public School System," said **Vincent Keane, President and CEO of Unity Health Care**. District law requires that all public, private and charter school children receive age-appropriate vaccinations and are up-to-date with a complete medical and dental examination in order to enter and remain in school," added Keane.

This year, the DC Public School System and Unity, through all of its health centers, will work to reinforce the importance of getting timely immunizations prior to the start of school. Each community health centers operated by Unity Health Care, has a unique strategy to increase the number of patients by servicing them before the start of school. As such, Unity's Upper Cardozo Health Center in Columbia Heights is continuing its history of offering 2-day walk-in physicals and dental examinations.

"The Annual Back to School Physical Days" is an event that the staff at Unity's health centers looks forward to each year. During the Annual Back to School Physical Days, the staff assist by providing all services on the same day to our clients with school-aged children," said **Mark Miner, MD**, Pediatrician, Unity Health Care-Upper Cardozo Health Center. "During the 2006 Back to School Days, Upper Cardozo performed about 500 physical examinations and 250 dental screenings. We are hoping to see the numbers increase during this year's event," added Dr. Miner.

Unity Health Care Foundation has continued the "Back to School Backpack Project" to encourage children to be prepared for the school year with needed backpacks loaded with school supplies., which is a stepping stone for encouraging parents to have their children's physicals and immunizations completed during the summer . On a daily basis, Unity serves school-aged children that are either homeless, at-risk of homelessness, or their family's budget cannot withstand the strain of buying needed school supplies, and so, our goal is to help ease the burdens these families face, "said Keane.

Unity Health Care (Unity) provides health care to the medically underserved in the District of Columbia, including almost 12,000 homeless men and women either in the streets or at shelters throughout the city. Founded in 1985, Unity Health Care is the fourth largest community health center network in the country, offering a full range of health services regardless of patients' ability to pay. Unity operates in more than 30 sites, including 11 community-based health centers, 9 medical sites in homeless shelters, 3 specialized health centers, and in the 2 city jails. Unity's mobile outreach vans travel throughout the city, providing care to homeless persons and "hard to reach" substance abusers. In 2006, Unity provided care to more than 70,000 people who accessed services more than 321,000 times. For more information about Unity Health Care, Inc., visit our website www.unityhealthcare.org.

All media outlets in need of "B" roll footage for "Back-to-School", developing a "back-to-school" article or seeking site times and date please contact Mr. Armani for more information.