



# Healthy Happenings

Berks Community Health Center (BCHC) is a not-for-profit community health center that takes care of patients regardless of their ability to pay. BCHC provides care to the City of Reading and surrounding communities.

## New Rockland location increases access to care



The decision was easy. Our community needed an additional Community Health Center location that included expanding our dental capacity. But as a non-profit, we can't do that alone. Thanks to our state government, we received \$500,000 RACP (Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program) funding for the project. We also received funding from HRSA (Health Resources & Services Administration) to equip the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) area and from Berks County Community Foundation to fund part of the Dental Suite. Because this is a multi-million dollar project, we continue to seek funding from additional sources.

As the Reading Eagle stated, we took a "Giant" leap forward with our new location at Rockland Street. As a non-profit organization, such a leap can not go without a thorough market analysis that shows a tremendous need exists for a center in that area or without some funding that helps defray some of the start up costs.

We couldn't do it without the support we receive from our community too. Your continued support is very much appreciated. Thank you for helping us provide health care services to the underserved. We're in it together.

The need assessment was clear. The 19604 and 19605 area was underserved medically and with transportation being such a barrier for many of our patients, an additional location in that area would be a sound decision. In addition, our 838 Penn Street location was near capacity and over 2,400 patients were coming from the proposed area. Finally, Patients were on a 6 month waiting list to access our dental services at 838 Penn Street.



Pictured are Pat Giles, Board Chair, Mary Kargbo, CEO, Dr. Mary Kelleher, CO, and Senator Judy Schwank at the Ribbon Cutting on October 29th.

## A Message from our CEO

Berks Community Health Center is committed to increasing access to quality care for our community members. This is evident with all that has been happening this past year. First, we are very excited about our new location at Rockland Street. Our largest location, it will have 30 medical exam rooms, 10 pediatric exam rooms and 10 dental exam rooms. It will provide specialty care to our patients such as podiatry, optometry, medication assisted treatment, and chiropractic care. For our patients' convenience, joining us at this location will be WIC, Pivot Physical Therapy, and Quest Diagnostics. We truly are working hard to provide a one-stop shop for our valued patients. I sincerely hope you join us on December 13<sup>th</sup> to see the new facility. We are extremely proud to show it off.

In addition to our additional location, we achieved Joint Commission Accreditation in April. This recognition is a reflection of the commitment each and everyone of our staff have for our patients and the health of our community. It was a very proud moment for me. Our new parking lot at 838 Penn Street is complete and provides ample parking for our patients. We continue to receive grants to help fight the opioid crisis that our country is faced with. And, we continue to collaborate with other organizations in Berks County to improve the community as a whole. We do not sit still; we are constantly looking for new and innovative ways to help our community's most valued asset, the people.

I thank you, our generous donors, board members, and constituents for all you do to support our efforts.



*M. Kargbo*

# Berks Community Health Center at Rockland

*Open House*  
*Thursday, December 13*  
*4 - 6 PM*

*1110A Rockland St, Reading, PA 19604*

### **You are invited...**

Join us for an Open House at our fourth health center site - the brand-new, 27,000 square foot Berks Community Health Center at Rockland.



We will be offering tours of our **primary care, dental, pediatrics and specialty care** facilities.



Please feel free to invite a friend, family member or colleague who might be interested in our services.

### **Refreshments will be served.**

#### *Here's a Sneak Peek!*

