

## **DOCTORS OF THE WORLD USA CELEBRATES THE OPENING OF THE ROCKAWAYS FREE CLINIC**

### **Medical facility to offer primary and preventative care services free of charge to a community in need post Sandy**

New York, NY—October 21, 2013—Doctors of the World USA, part of the Médecins du Monde international network dedicated to providing healthcare access to underserved and marginalized populations, announced the official opening of the Rockaways Free Clinic. The clinic, located at 2-30 Beach 102<sup>nd</sup> St., will begin providing services to the community on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. The clinic will continue to operate two days a week, Thursdays 12pm to 8pm, and Saturdays 10am to 2pm, in an effort to accommodate working adults and families.

The Rockaways Free Clinic will offer primary and preventive care services for adults regardless of their ability to pay. Clinic services will include treatment for diabetes, hypertension, and other chronic disease management, along with mental health services and community health education. The clinic will also provide referrals to outside providers for those patients requiring more advanced care.

Established as a key component of the organization's response to the impact of Superstorm Sandy in the region, The Rockaways Free Clinic is Doctors of the World USA's flagship project in the United States. "After a year of hard work and dedication by Doctors of the World USA staff, partners and community leaders, we are thrilled to officially open our doors," says Doctors of the World USA Executive Director Henry E. Chang. "We are glad to be a part of the larger sustained Sandy recovery effort by bringing access to free medical care to the Rockaways."

State Assemblyman Phillip Goldfeder, State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo Jr., and Joseph N. Edwards, representing Congressman Gregory W. Meeks, helped Doctors of the World USA executives, including Mr. Chang, Doctors of the World USA Board President Dr. Ron Waldman, and Board Treasurer Dr. Abby Stoddard celebrate this milestone at a ribbon cutting ceremony held on October 17<sup>th</sup> at the clinic. Residents had an opportunity to see the clinic space for the first time and meet Medical Director Dr. Amber Featherstone during an open house held for the community on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

"The Rockaway Community has shown incredible resilience since the storm and welcomed us with open arms," said Dr. Featherstone. "I am excited to be a part of this new chapter in the recovery effort."

Operating under Dr. Featherstone's direction, the clinic will also have a part-time Clinic Manager and a Nurse Manager on staff, and rely on a roster of volunteer medical professionals and laypeople to meet client needs. Catholic Charities Brooklyn-Queens, Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing, The Visiting Nurse Service of New York, and St. John's Episcopal Hospital, have all generously extended their services to support the clinic staff in varying capacities.

The Rockaways Free Clinic relies on the generous support of individual and corporate donors. If you are interested in making a donation please email: [donations@doctorsoftheworld.org](mailto:donations@doctorsoftheworld.org) or visit [www.doctorsoftheworld.org/rockawaysfreeclinic](http://www.doctorsoftheworld.org/rockawaysfreeclinic)

Interested volunteers can email: [help@doctorsoftheworld.com](mailto:help@doctorsoftheworld.com)

**About Doctors of the World:**

Doctors of the World USA (MdM USA) is the US-based chapter of the international network of Médecins du Monde, dedicated to providing emergency and long-term healthcare to vulnerable populations around the world. Established in 2011, MdM USA works with communities both locally and globally, committed to improving access to quality medical services for populations suffering from poverty, disease, conflict, natural disasters and health disparities. MdM provides direct medical care under all circumstances, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation, or political beliefs. Doctors of the World was founded in 1980 in Paris, France by 15 doctors seeking to address healthcare gaps and inequality. For more information please visit <http://www.doctorsoftheworld.org/>

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