

Three Elev8 Schools Celebrate Opening of New School-based Health Centers



Three Elev8 schools boast brand new school based health centers: Roosevelt Middle School (Lower San Antonio), United for Success (Fruitvale neighborhood) and Madison Middle School (Sobrante Park/East Oakland). These are three of five middle schools that are to open new school based health centers in Oakland as part of the Elev8 initiative. The other schools are currently in the construction phase, West Oakland and Coliseum College Preparatory/Roots International located in East Oakland's Havenscourt neighborhood.

The project, officially known as the Elev8 Initiative, represents one of the largest intergovernmental partnerships in Oakland and demonstrates the type of public-private and interagency collaboration needed to improve outcomes for Oakland's children and to create a Full-Service Community School District.

As Madison Principal Dr. Lucinda Taylor explains, "It is refreshing to see community partners, national partners, OUSD, our families and staff, come together to realize a dream for many of our families-to be able to provide health care for their children." The goal of the Elev8 initiative is to improve the academic and health conditions experienced by all children and families at its target schools.

"We are excited to see the realization of an idea that began to unfold just a few years ago," stated Alice Walker Duff, Program Officer for Atlantic Philanthropies. "Elev8 is an initiative that seeks to empower communities and bring about social change. Youth Ventures JPA and Safe Passages have brought over thirty public and private local entities together to bring about long-lasting change in the flatlands of Oakland."

The five school campuses were selected three years ago to be part of the Oakland Elev8 initiative based on criteria that included socio-economic indicators, health profiles, academic performance and neighborhood crime data.

Madison School, the most recent to open its health center, is located in Oakland's Sobrante Park neighborhood, and has a remarkable history of recent progress despite being located in a high-crime area that suffers from some of the worst health indicators in the county. Academic Performance Index (API) is the state's primary metric for measuring student achievement and since 2005, the school has consistently posted double digit API increases. From 2005 to 2008 alone, Madison's API scores increased by 128 points.

Madison Principal Dr. Lucinda Taylor attributed the performance to high-quality instruction and a standards-based curriculum combined with robust community engagement and a range of services for students and families. At Madison, families can take advantage of a Family Resource Center with workshops for parents on college and career readiness; an afterschool and extended-day program that offers dance, arts, cooking, health, sports and technology instruction until 6:00

pm; modernized, state-of-the-art classrooms, library, physical education and community spaces, and the new, comprehensive health clinic opening as part of the Elev8 initiative.

The health centers will provide physical care, mental and dental health care, nutrition services and health education. In addition, the clinics will offer youth development opportunities that allow students to become peer educators.

The planning for School-Based Health Centers at these target schools began three years ago when the City of Oakland, the County of Alameda and the Oakland Unified School District, Youth Ventures, Safe Passages and The Atlantic Philanthropies partnered in the development of five Full Service Community Schools. The Elev8 Oakland initiative invests over \$40 million in academic, health and family support services at the school sites in four years. Under the health component, students at the schools may receive physical, mental, dental, nutrition and youth development services and programs from a professional team of health providers. Over 3,000 youth and families will be served at these centers annually.

"Healthy communities are a prerequisite for healthy kids and strong schools, so it's essential that we address the conditions in our city which interfere with the development of children," said OUSD Superintendent Tony Smith. "In order to dramatically improve outcomes for students, we must create environments where high-levels of learning and social growth can flourish. Comprehensive, school-based health centers represent a significant step in OUSD's transformation into a Full-Service Community School District where schools that care for the whole child serve as an anchor for the neighborhoods which they serve."

All Elev8 partners have been working closely with the school community, OUSD and the County of Alameda to ensure that the facilities construction and the services being provided are aligned with the needs of each individual community.

In the words of Oakland Mayor Jean Quan, "The Youth Ventures JPA is an ongoing partnership that works well. I look forward to more of these high-level, cross-jurisdictional efforts yielding solid results for our Oakland families."

The lead health partners at the school sites are: Alameda County Public Health Department at Madison Middle School; Native American Health Center at United for Success Academy in the Fruitvale District; La Clinica de la Raza at Roosevelt in the Lower San Antonio and Coliseum College Preparatory Academy and Roots International in the Havenscourt/East Oakland Neighborhood, and Life Long Medical Care and Healthy Oakland (West Oakland Middle School).

Madison Middle School Health Care Center



An old space is revamped for the new Madison Health Care Center.



School principal Dr. Lucinda Taylor with dignitaries prepares to inaugurate the health center.



Kimi Sakashita, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency joins in on the first community tour of the health center.



Dr. Taylor, School Board Trustee Alice Spearman, Benisha Rivera, 8th grade Student Body Vice-President, Mayor Jean Quan, Anita Siegel, Director of the Alameda County Public Health Department, and Pastor Jeffrey Parker.

Roosevelt Middle School Health Care Center



8th grade students: Velmoh Cooper, Quynh Tran, Imani Degale perform a dance routine.



Cliff Hong, School Principal, Alex Briscoe, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Director, Josefina Alvarado Mena, CEO, Safe Passages/Youth Ventures JPA, and Jane Garcia, La Clinica de la Raza Executive Director.



Roosevelt Middle School Health Center reception area and exam room.

United For Success Middle School - Health Center



Principal Elia Bustamante and proud parent Patricia Miranda cut the ribbon marking the opening of the health center.



CA Assemblymember Sandre Swanson, Alice Walker Duff, Programme Officer Atlantic Philanthropies, Alex Briscoe, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Director, School Board Trustee Noel Gallo, School Principal Elia Bustamante and Josefina Alvarado Mena, CEO Safe Passages and Youth Ventures JPA.



Native American Health Center staff perform a drumming ceremony.



New School-Based Health Center at United for Success Middle School.