



## \*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Attention: Community Editors, Business, Health Care  
Writers and Editors

Contact: Renee Sally  
Interim Marketing Manager  
Phone: (202) 715-7886  
Mobile: (202) 553-0199  
Email: [rsally@unityhealthcare.org](mailto:rsally@unityhealthcare.org)

Ana Zorrilla  
Phone: (202) 715-7887  
Email: [azorrilla@unityhealthcare.org](mailto:azorrilla@unityhealthcare.org)

## UNITY HEALTH CARE (UNITY) IS AWARDED \$12 MILLION THROUGH THE RECOVERY ACT TO BUILD AND RENOVATE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS IN WARDS 1 AND 8

Washington, DC – December 9, 2009, Vincent A. Keane, President/CEO of Unity Health Care, Incorporated (Unity) attended President Barack Obama’s televised press conference held in the South Court Auditorium on the grounds of the White House. The President announced \$600 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) funding, which has been awarded to support major construction and renovation projects at 85 community health centers nationwide. Unity was one of the 85 awardees, receiving \$12 million through the Recovery Act. *“Studies show that people living near a health center are less likely to go to the emergency room and less likely to have unmet critical medical needs. CHC are proven to reduce ethnic and racial disparities in care. And the medical expenses of regular CHCs patients are nearly 25 percent lower than those folks who get their care elsewhere – 25 percent lower,”* President Obama stated.

The \$12 million award will pay for a portion of the cost associated with the construction and renovation of two of Unity’s busiest health care facilities; the Anacostia Health Center serving more than 7,000 patients annually and the Upper Cardozo Health Center serving more than 20,000 patients a year. Situated on opposite ends of the city’s landscape both facilities serve the most vulnerable populations that have chosen Unity as their medical home.

The Anacostia Health Center located east of the river in Ward 8 will be moved to a new facility; replacing a 6,000 square foot pre-fabricated, windowless facility built in the 1960s. The new 28,000 square foot facility will allow Unity to expand existing services such as primary and specialty care, dentistry, psychiatry, health education, and case management. Furthermore, Unity will add an urgent care suite to provide walk-in services and care after hours.

Upper Cardozo Health Center located in Ward 1 was constructed in 1972 and funds from the Recovery Act will allow the facility to have a complete facelift. The renovation will allow patients visits to increase from 78,000 in fiscal year 2008 to an expected 115,000 by the year 2014, which is an increase of 47.2 percent.

“We are thankful for President Obama and to Congress for their ongoing support of community health centers,” states Vincent A. Keane President and CEO of Unity Health Care. “The financial investment in the renovation and modernization of community health centers is unprecedented and obviously health centers will be a key point of access in future Health Care

Reform Legislation. The District of Columbia, like many urban areas, experiences great disparities in health care. Community Health Centers like Unity's Upper Cardozo and Anacostia Health Centers provide medical homes for patients who would otherwise go without care. Through these medical homes, patients get quality, compassionate health care; and learn disease prevention and health promotion. Keane said, "The \$12 million in funding to construct and renovate Unity's Upper Cardozo and Anacostia Health Centers is a long-term investment that will result in improved health outcomes, and also ensure that the most vulnerable populations receive quality care regardless of their ability to pay."

Keane further stated, "In 2008 in collaboration with the DC Primary Care Association (DCPCA), Unity began a \$65 million capital campaign to expand medical services and create medical homes for thousands of medically underserved residents in the District of Columbia. Funds received from the Recovery Act will greatly assist this effort; Unity still faces great challenges in securing additional resources to complete this initiative. We are grateful to DCPCA, the Bureau of Primary Health Care/HRSA and the DC Department of Health for their support in this endeavor."

Unity Health Care, Inc. is Washington, DC's largest nonprofit health and social services organization serving more than 81,000 individuals and families annually. Unity serves individuals and families in all eight wards of the District of Columbia through its network of health service centers that include Community Health Centers, sites serving homeless individuals and a mobile medical outreach unit. Unity serves the most vulnerable residents of the District including the uninsured, working poor, homeless, the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated. For more information about Unity Health Care, Inc., visit our website at [www.unityhealthcare.org](http://www.unityhealthcare.org) or contact our Marketing Department at (202) 715-7887.