

For Immediate Release

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Harbor Community Benefit Foundation Celebrates New Respiratory Clinic and First Annual Wilmington Community Health Fair

WILMINGTON, CALIF. — On March 27, 2013, Harbor Community Benefit Foundation (HCBF) celebrated the opening of a new respiratory clinic inside the Wilmington Health Center located at 1325 Broad Avenue. The clinic will identify and treat asthma, emphysema, COPD, and other respiratory diseases.

The ceremony was followed by HCBF's inaugural community health fair. Attended by nearly 400 people, the fair featured over 50 organizations offering free health screenings and informational services. Anchored by two mobile clinics, residents enjoyed a wide range of free healthy activities, including local food, and live music from Tino & His Orchestra that prompted dancing in the streets.

Congresswoman Janice Hahn, the keynote speaker, retold the story of the unprecedented collaboration between the Port of Los Angeles and 17 local and national environmental advocates representing the harbor communities adjacent to the Port. "We don't have to argue anymore about [whether] we can have good jobs or we can have clean air. We can have both!" Hahn emphasized, referring to the agreement that resulted in the formation of HCBF, the San Pedro-based non-profit, "to see this clinic funded, right here in the community of Wilmington, to deal with respiratory illnesses and lung issues is so important." The new clinic was funded by a \$200,000 grant from HCBF matched by over \$190,000 in American Disability Act (ADA) funds from the County of Los Angeles. It is one of the only clinics dedicated to treating respiratory illnesses in the harbor area.

On behalf of HCBF, Executive Director Mary Silverstein presented health care grants to four grantees: Tzu Chi Community Clinic, Long Beach Alliance for Children With Asthma, The Children's Clinic, and Wilmington Health Center. The funding choices were made to "foster partnerships among the providers and bring the Wilmington community together," Silverstein said, adding that the grantees collaborate regularly to address the health and education needs of underserved Wilmington residents.

Other event speakers included Sean Hecht, HCBF Board Chair; Adriano Martinez, National Resources Defense Council (NRDC); Mike Christensen, Deputy Director of the Port of Los Angeles; and Richard Espinosa, Health Deputy for Supervisor Don Knabe.

Dan Hoffman, President of Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, considered the clinic opening "one of the best ribbon cutting ceremonies and health fairs I have ever attended."

For more information visit the website at www.hcbf.org. HCBF plans to host a spring health fair annually in Wilmington. Organizations and individuals interested in participating should contact HCBF at (310) 997-7116 or info@hcbf.org.