



"Partnering with Community Health Centers to Improve the Lives of Children in Need."

## CAVU Invests in Boston's South End

CAVU has partnered with Boston's South End Community Health Center (SECHC) to advance a comprehensive approach to prevention and treatment of childhood obesity. CAVU's investment will allow SECHC's pilot obesity program, WIN-WIN (Weight Initiative Now) to utilize the expertise of Cambridge-based Abt Associates in evaluating their model, refining their focus, and expanding replicability.

According to an interim report released this month by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, "there is still a substantial underinvestment of the resources needed to address the growing problem of childhood obesity." CAVU's investment in WIN-WIN addresses the Institute's concern that while "many prevention policies and programs are currently under way... lack of systematic monitoring and evaluation have hindered the development of a research base to identify, apply, and disseminate the lessons learned."

In partnering with SECHC CAVU has provided the program with an opportunity to evaluate, assess, and refine program components to maximize efficiency and impact for children in Boston.

[Click here for more information on CAVU's investment in SECHC.](#)

## Lawrence CHC Holds Legislative Event

On August 9th the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center (GLFHC) celebrated National Community Health Center Week with their annual Legislative Breakfast. The breakfast provided an opportunity for state and local politicians and community leaders to learn about the need for and benefits of the health center's programs, including the CAVU-funded pediatric ADHD Clinic.

Kris Cyr, Executive Director of CAVU, spoke about CAVU's partnership with GLFHC, and the history and goals of the ADHD Clinic. His talk included an explanation of how CAVU and GLFHC came to work together, and what impact both organizations are looking to have through the clinic. He also praised the clinic's staff for their innovative and culturally competent approach to treating ADHD, which has elicited praise from both children and parents.

Audience members, including State Senator Susan Tucker and representatives from the offices of Chris Gabrieli and the National Association of Community Health Centers, expressed their support for the health center and for CAVU's support of the ADHD Clinic. Rumbo, a local Spanish-English Bilingual newspaper, covered the event.

[Click here for more on the Legislative Breakfast.](#)

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## CAVU Spotlight CAVU's Work Cited in National Report

An August report by the [National Association of Community Health Centers \(NACHC\)](#) cited CAVU's involvement as "instrumental" in assisting Coastal Family Health Center's post-Katrina recovery process. Through recruitment and coordination of volunteers and provision of mental health services to Coastal staff, CAVU has been able to have a significant impact on the recovery of Mississippi's largest Community Health Center.

NACHC's report focuses on the integral role Community Health Centers play in providing services to evacuees: "The lessons of the Gulf Coast make clear that health centers, and the preventive care in which they specialize, are critical to disaster response. In addition, the opportunity to rebuild an entire public health infrastructure is raising important questions about the role of health centers – a role that recent experience shows should be both greater and more central."

More than one year after Hurricane Katrina health centers are still struggling to rebuild and to prepare themselves in case of another emergency. CAVU continues to assist in that effort through coordination and planning assistance, particularly on issues of disaster preparedness. Working with NACHC, NGOs, volunteers, government officials and other partners has allowed CAVU to leverage resources for a greater impact.

[Click here to access the report through CAVU's website.](#)

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