

## **Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton Partners with Dayton Public Schools to Launch a Mobile Health Unit**

Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton is partnering with Dayton Public Schools (DPS) to provide unprecedented care to students with asthma and related conditions. A health center on wheels, made possible with funding through The CareSource Foundation, will bring medical professionals to the students, removing barriers families must overcome to obtain health care for their child with asthma. The DPS Mobile Health Unit is an expansion of the Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton, a federally qualified health center. It was rolled out today for community leaders and media to see close up as it begins its travels to the district's elementary schools.

“This partnership provides a unique opportunity for three organizations -- Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton, Dayton Public Schools and The CareSource Foundation -- to leverage their collective strengths and assets, to bring much needed health care services to students,” said Gregory Hopkins, executive director, Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton.

“The CareSource Foundation has had the incredible opportunity to partner with many impressive organizations throughout its history, and this collaboration is no different. Our goal is to invest in social innovation that improves critical trends in health. Childhood asthma is at the top of that list,” said Cathy Ponitz, vice president, The CareSource Foundation. “The new Mobile Health Unit will offer unique and personalized care to more than 1,900 Dayton Public Schools students. And ultimately, controlling asthma keeps kids in school and ensures greater peace of mind for their families.”

The district currently enrolls more than 800 elementary students with asthma (about 12 percent). A DPS school nurse and a CHCGD family nurse practitioner are assigned to the unit to supplement the health care children with asthma may already be receiving through a health care provider. The unit will travel to 17 DPS elementary schools on a rotating basis. The Mobile Health Unit staff can provide thorough exams, including diagnosis and treatment options for asthma; make informed referrals; and provide asthma education for the children and their parents or guardians.

“We are grateful to our partners, who have given us the tools to revolutionize our services to our students. Our goal is to help families better manage their children's asthma,” said

Superintendent Rhonda Corr. “We want to keep our children healthy, so they can attend school regularly and are ready to learn.”