

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Welsh Mountain Medical & Dental Center Announces
Ground-Breaking Ceremony for Renovation and Dental Expansion
August 31, 2010 at 1:00pm**

NEW HOLLAND, PA (August 24, 2010) – On August 31, 2010, Welsh Mountain Medical and Dental Center will break ground on a \$930,000 renovation and dental expansion. The project includes a 1,300 square foot addition to the Springville Road office which will expand the dental facilities from seven to a total of thirteen exam rooms.

The six new dental rooms will enable Welsh Mountain to expand its dental staff with a new dentist, dental assistant, and receptionist. The staff increase is funded by a Community Primary Care Challenge Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Health. With the growth in facilities and the addition of a dental team, The Center will be able to provide dental care to 1,000 new patients and add an emergency dental clinic on two Saturdays per month.

In addition to the new dental facilities which are scheduled to open in December of 2010, the building project includes the installation of a peaked roof and replacement of the existing HVAC and electrical systems with greener, more efficient technologies. A back-up generator will also be installed to provide electricity during power outages and facilitate The Center's role in the community-wide Emergency Preparedness and Bioterrorism Plan.

The expansion and renovation of Welsh Mountain's Springville Road office reflects the Board of Directors' ongoing commitment to providing quality medical and dental care to the community, especially those with barriers to care. Given the state of the economy, and particularly the high unemployment and underemployment rates, the need for expanded access to care continues to grow.

Currently, Welsh Mountain has a waiting list of over 700 people in need of dental services, 90% of whom are children. A recent needs assessment of people on the waiting list shows that 22% have not seen a dentist in more than one year, and 53% have never been to a dentist or can not remember the last time they saw one. Because 32% of The Center's rural population qualifies for Medical Assistance, the reality is that even with the addition of 1,000 dental patients, thousands more are ready to fill the waiting list.

Confirmed shovel-bearers for the ground-breaking include Senator Mike Brubaker; Martin Raniowski, Director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Health Planning; and John Farber, President of the Welsh Mountain Board of Directors and COO of Garden Spot Village in New Holland.

Welsh Mountain Medical and Dental Center is a Federally Qualified Health Center founded in 1972 to "provide quality, family-centered health services to all members of the community, especially those who encounter barriers to care." The Center also provides medical services at Meadow Creek Family Practice in New Holland.

The public is invited to attend the ground-breaking ceremonies. The courtesy of a RSVP to Christine Stumpf at 354-4711, extension 116, is appreciated.

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