**NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK:2017**

COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

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(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE) Williamsport - In conjunction with the over 1,200 U.S. health centers nationwide, the River Valley Health and Dental Center plans to celebrate National Health Center Week (August 13 – 19). The annual celebration takes place the second week of August every year with the goal of raising awareness about the mission and accomplishments of America’s Health Centers. The Center also has planned activities during the week to recognize and express appreciation for its over 13,000 patients and staff of 90 health professionals. Gabe Campana, Mayor of the City of Williamsport, has proclaimed this week in Williamsport “National Health Center Week” in honor of the Center’s contribution to the residents of the City.

This years’ theme for **National Health Center Week 2017** (NHCW) is **“Celebrating America’s Health Centers:  The Key to Healthier Communities.”** As local community owned and operated businesses, Health Centers serve over 25 million Americans at more than 9,000 delivery sites in all 50 states,the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and U.S. territories.

Among the activities to be held at the Center will be a Community Health Fair on Monday, August 14 from 4 – 7 p.m. with free screenings and informational activities along with prizes and giveaways. Over a dozen Community partners are also participating in the event to lend support and provide resources to those in attendance.

On Wednesday, August 16th, the Center is sponsoring a free lunch at the Sojourner’s Truth Ministries, 501 High Street in Williamsport.

Thursday, August 17th is Patient and Staff Appreciation Day at the Center and the Lycoming County Commissioners are expected to present a Proclamation recognizing National Health Center Week in Lycoming County at their scheduled 10 a.m. meeting.

The River Valley Health and Dental Center is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), a non-profit community-based health organization independently managed by a community board of directors and located in the Hepburn Plaza (471 Hepburn Street) in the center of Williamsport. It serves the residents of the greater river valley community with comprehensive primary care –medical, dental including behavioral and reproductive health services. Not only does the Center provide services to the medically underserved to prevent illness and foster wellness, but to everyone in our river valley community, care that goes beyond the conventional to address needs and other factors that may cause sickness, proactively managing chronic conditions for improved and sustainable outcomes and overcoming common barriers to care.
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