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## **President of Brigham and Women's Hospital to be Honored for Reducing Health Disparities**

*Dr. Gary Gottlieb will be celebrated and lampooned  
at Whittier Street Health Center's 2009 Roast*

BOSTON- Building on a history of both honoring and jesting some of Boston's most influential and praise worthy residents, Whittier Street Health Center's 2009 Roast of Dr. Gary Gottlieb titled: SHRINKing Disparities in Health Care, will be a night of honor, fun and mayhem for the prominent psychiatrist and President of Brigham and Women's and Faulkner Hospitals. The Roast will be held April 1<sup>st</sup> at Boston's Park Plaza Hotel. As Whittier Street Health Center's largest fundraising event, the annual Roast has taken aim at some high ranking Bostonians including Wayne Budd, John Kerry, Mayor Menino, Diddy Cullinane, Marvin Gilmore, Paul LaCamera, Ted Kelly, Tom O'Neil, Bob Mahoney and Robert Beal.

"Whittier's Roast is always a fun evening where we are able to honor important members of our community in a unique way," said Whittier President and CEO Frederica M. Williams. "We could not be happier to have Gary Gottlieb join the ranks of past Roastees. His commitment to increasing access to health care for everyone, especially those facing socioeconomic and cultural barriers to care, has been exemplary. His work with the Mayor's office to create a plan to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health shows that he understands the need to not only target the health issues affecting our neighborhoods, but also the social issues plaguing many of Boston's residents in order to truly create healthier communities. We look forward to honoring him for his work, and also to hearing some great stories and jabs at Gary from the Roasters!"

Gary L. Gottlieb, M.D., M.B.A., serves as President of Brigham and Women's/Faulkner Hospitals; a position assumed on March 1, 2002. He is a Professor of Psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School. In addition to his impressive clinical and leadership achievements in the psychiatric and health care fields, Dr. Gottlieb is committed to expanding access to care for all members of our community. In 2004/2005 he served as the co-chair of Mayor Menino's Task Force to Eliminate Health Disparities. As a co-chair he helped create a blueprint for Boston to overcome both socioeconomic and health discrepancies in different populations and neighborhoods to create a healthier city for everyone. His personal mission to "improve access to the best possible health care for everyone" is directly aligned with Whittier's mission to eliminate social and health disparities in Boston.

The 2009 Roast will be hosted by Joyce Kulhawik and Mayor Thomas Menino will serve as the guest auctioneer. Please contact Whittier Street Health Center at (617) 989-3182 with any questions about how you can become a part of this exciting event.

**About Whittier Street Health Center**

All proceeds from the event will go to Whittier Street Health Center, 1125 Tremont Street Roxbury. Whittier Street Health Center ([www.wshc.org](http://www.wshc.org)) is a Joint Commission accredited, private, non-profit, independently licensed community health center dedicated to providing high quality, reliable and accessible primary health care and support services for diverse populations to promote wellness and eliminate health and social disparities. Serving more than 12,000 clients with approximately 60,000 clinic visits and 20,000 community outreach visits annually, Whittier serves patient who are ethnically and racially diverse with a significant number living in Roxbury, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, the South End and Greater Boston. Whittier provides a comprehensive array of 30 healthcare programs and services designed to meet the primary health care, behavioral health, and social needs of the community.

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