

CEO Memo

Fall season is in full swing, and we here at Whittier Street Health Center have so many reasons to celebrate aside from the beautiful New England foliage.

On October 1st, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) opened a mammography suite at Whittier. Breast cancer is the second most lethal cancer for women in the US, and about 1 in 8 women will get it during their lifetime. Although rates of deaths from breast cancer have declined over the past two decades, the American Cancer Society estimates that 232,340 new cases will be diagnosed in 2013, and that almost 40,000 women will die from the disease this year. Now Whittier is moving forward with the important work of providing mammography screening services to our patients, as well as to women in the surrounding communities. The mammography suite is on the first floor and is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. We are pleased to offer it in addition to the DFCI Community Cancer Center on the fifth floor.

On October 2nd, we held the 2013 Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration, the first event of its kind at Whittier. The celebration showed our deep appreciation for Hispanic and Latin Americans' continued influence in the surrounding communities of Boston. The evening's activities showcased the heritage and culture of the Hispanic community, with wonderful live music by the folk group Alfredo & Son del Sol, and an elegant salsa dancing demonstration by a pair from the SassEe Lady troupe. Emmy winner Tim Estiloz gave a keynote speech and connected warmly with his audience, while our new provider, Dr. Hernan Delgado, shared his enthusiasm for health care in the community. Throughout the evening, attendees received health information from our sponsors: Nuestra Comunidad, Senior Whole Health, and Tufts Health Plan. The event attracted over a hundred people and ended with a rousing raffle drawing and energetic dancing.

We have three exciting events coming up. First, we hope you join us for our International Gospel Concert in November. Whittier's **2013 Saving the Health of Our Community International Gospel Concert** will be held on **Saturday, November 23, 2013, at the Berklee Performance Center**. Bobby Jones, host and executive producer of BET's Bobby Jones Gospel and producer of Video Gospel, will once again serve as our esteemed Special Guest Master of Ceremonies. This year, we are honoring Pastor Ellis Washington of the Grant A.M.E. Church, and Latoiya Edwards, an anchor for Boston's New England Cable News (NECN) channel. Performers include the duo Devoted, the children's funk pop Christian band So Amazing, the Boston College group Voices of Imani, and many more!

We will also be hosting the **Women for Whittier Holiday Tea** event at the health center on **Monday, December 2, 2013**, featuring acclaimed stress expert, motivational speaker, author, and humorist Loretta LaRoche. Women for Whittier is a group of prominent and socially committed women from the Greater Boston community. They are dedicated to fostering solutions to some of the most pressing issues affecting women in Boston.

Finally, please save the date for our **2013 Annual Meeting** at Whittier on **Monday, December 9, 2013**. State Treasurer & Receiver General Steven Grossman will serve as this year's keynote speaker and receive the 2013 Whittier Street Health Center President's Award. As President and CEO, I will share the State of Our Health Center to key stakeholders, including patients, board members, donors, and staff.

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It is always a pleasure keeping you updated about our work here at Whittier. Please visit our website, www.wshc.org, as well as our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages, for more details about our programs and services. Thank you again for supporting Whittier Street Health Center.

Sincerely,

Frederica M. Williams
President and CEO