

February 5, 2013

## MHIC News

### Lowell Community Health Center celebrates new medical facility with Grand Opening

“It takes a community to build a community health center”

On Friday, February 1st, more than 500 people – supporters, donors, public officials, lenders, community leaders and employees of Lowell Community Health Center – gathered to celebrate the grand opening of its new medical facility in the old Hamilton Manufacturing Co. mill complex on Jackson Street.

The ceremony was held in a huge tent on the rooftop of a parking garage opposite the new health center. While the tent squeaked and swayed in the wind, the people inside expressed their jubilation with conversation, applause and song.



**Members of the Lowell Community Charter School choir assembled to sing “Celebration” to culminate the ceremony.**

The gala celebration culminated the \$42 million adaptive reuse of a historic mill building to create a new 100,000-square-foot home for LCHC, which officially opened its doors at the end of December 2012. The new facility consolidated six of LCHC’s outpatient locations into one state-of-the-art building, creating a one-stop center for health care in downtown Lowell. LCHC provides care to 50,000 residents of Greater Lowell per year, regardless of ability to pay.

Thanking the throng of supporters who came to the ceremony despite the biting cold, CEO of LCHC Dorcas Grigg-Saito said, “What it took to make this dream a reality was a true public partnership. It truly takes a community to build a community health center.”

For this project, MHIC provided \$15.8 million in New Markets Tax Credit financing, with US Bank as the investor. NCB Capital Impact also provided New Markets Tax Credit financing. Other financing partners include Eastern Bank,

the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of the Interior/National Park Service, and about 1,400 donors who contributed \$350,000 to the \$5 million “Caring for Lowell” capital campaign.

In addition to providing better and more care to Lowell residents, the new LCHC boosts Lowell’s economy by creating 100 new permanent jobs. Approximately 600 construction jobs were generated during the construction phase. LHCH is one of many old mill buildings in Lowell’s Hamilton Canal district being turned into new commercial, office and residential space – revitalizing a formerly vacant, blighted, underutilized corner of Lowell into a vibrant place for new jobs and opportunity.

The ceremony ended with the singing of “Celebration” by the Lowell Community Charter School Choir while 21 leaders and donors gathered outside the front door of the newly-named Moses Greeley Parker Building to cut a ribbon and officially dedicate the new health care facility.

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Scroll down to see additional photos



LCHC CEO Dorcas Grigg-Saito



Congresswoman Niki Tsongas



