



Your neighborhood network of community health centers

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Valley Community Healthcare Opens Highly-Regarded Valley Teen Clinic in North Hills**  
*Lauded Teen-Focused Health Services Program Located Adjacent to Monroe High School*

NORTH HILLS, CA 91343--- In January 2015, Valley Community Healthcare opened a second site for its award-winning, nationally respected, Valley Teen Clinic. Located at their new North Hills Wellness Center, 9119 North Haskell Avenue, and adjacent to Monroe High School, the Valley Teen Clinic offers adolescents aged 12-19 a confidential, teen-sensitive environment for free reproductive healthcare and education, and access to primary care services on a no/low cost basis.

Teen Peer Providers hired from the local community, are specially trained to assist young adults make appropriate lifestyle choices, and manage their multicultural environments. "Peer Providers are certified as community health workers to ensure they provide accurate information in a professional manner," explains Adolescent Medicine Specialist, Jill Halper, MD. "The Teen Clinic is a vital portal to integrated health care for teens, who may not otherwise seek medical treatment."

According to Connie Kruzan, Director of Adolescent Services, female teen patients who have gone through the Clinic's year-long follow-up program have a 1% pregnancy rate, compared to 2.8 % in the community at large. "In collaboration with the administrators at Monroe High School, we will combat what is one of the highest student pregnancy rates in the area, and ensure that teens have access to the comprehensive healthcare they need" states Paula Wilson, President and CEO of the Valley Community Healthcare organization. "We've done it before, and we can do it again!"

The Valley Teen Clinic, developed by teens for teens, was selected as a worldwide model for teen pregnancy prevention by the United Nations Youth Empowerment Summit, and recognized as the preferred intervention program by the California Wellness Foundation, Advocates for Youth, the Guttmacher Institute, and the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

**ABOUT VALLEY COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE**

Valley Community Healthcare (formerly Valley Community Clinic) is non-profit neighborhood network of comprehensive health centers, dedicated to enhancing the well-being of the community by providing high quality, culturally sensitive primary medical care and related health services to those in need, regardless of their ability to pay. Since its establishment in 1970, the organization has expanded its medical services and community outreach programs, become a major HIV/AIDS resource and treatment center, and a national leader in adolescent services.