

TURNING LEGACY INTO EXPERTISE-EXPERTISE INTO INNOVATION
Geiger Gibson CHC celebrates 45 years of changing public health for millions

By Lou Brady, Executive Director, Geiger Gibson Community Health Center

The Columbia Point Health Center opened its doors for the very first time on December 10, 1965. That event marked the beginning of the Community Health Center movement in this country. When those doors opened 45 years ago, residents of the Columbia Point Housing project sought health care services at a rate of 200 people a day. The underserved and disenfranchised now had the opportunity to get the care they needed without regard to financial, geographic, language or racial barriers. The opening of that first site in 1965 has led to 8,000 sites across the country, serving as the safety net health care provider for 20 million residents today. Dorchester hosts an important legacy, and has proudly supported a model that has grown to be a force for good.

The Columbia Point Health Center is now known as the Geiger Gibson Community Health Center, which was renamed in honor of its two founding physician; H. Jack Geiger and Count D. Gibson Jr.

In an effort to meet the changing health care needs of the communities its serves, the Geiger Gibson Community Health Center is currently reinventing itself. Nestled on the residential sea shore community of the Columbia Point peninsula and neighboring UMass Boston, the health center continues to makes strides in providing high quality outpatient care with emphasis in both Medical and Dental Pediatrics as well as in Adult Medicine, Behavioral Health and Specialty Care. The passion for delivering that care still looks like it used to forty five years ago. The tools, technology, and methods for delivering that care look very different today. The use of Electronic Medical Records, a medical home model of care with an emphasis on managing the space between the visits, a dedicated telephone call center, and cutting edge use of evidenced based guidelines for care help deliver the care needed for today and tomorrow. Forty five years in the making, Geiger Gibson Community Health Center is proud to embrace innovation in its brand.

Amidst concerns of shortage in primary care providers, Geiger Gibson Community Health Center remains the beacon of access by offering same day visits and medical appointments within 15 days. The health center is open Monday through Saturday with extended evening hours. It employs Board Certified Pediatricians, Family Medicine Practitioners, Dentists and Dental Hygienists, Optometrists, Podiatrists and Clinical Pharmacists and as well as allied health professionals.

The Geiger Gibson Community Health Center has worked hard to turn its legacy into expertise -- and expertise into innovation -- for the benefit of the patients, the community and public health.

Happy 45th Anniversary Geiger Gibson Community Health Center. Thank you for the legacy, expertise and innovation you bring to caring for patients and the community.

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