

## ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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### **Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County to Build Consolidated Health Complex - Announces Project Partners**

PITTSFIELD, IL - Patricia McIntosh, Executive Director of the Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County (HWFPC) today announced the Foundation will be building a consolidated health complex on the old Brown Shoe Factory site. They are planning to break ground in July of this year with facility completion by Fall of 2012. The complex will be home to several entities including the Foundation's office.

The health complex project has been in development for over twelve months. During that time they worked to acquire property from the City of Pittsfield on which to build and had discussions with entities who would be interested in relocating to a new consolidated health complex. In December of 2010, HWFPC purchased the property owned by ECHO Pike which is on the old Brown Shoe Factory site.

Since the property acquisition, they committed to build a consolidated health complex that would leverage Foundation assets toward the construction of a multipurpose health facility that brings together various health organizations within one self-contained facility. In February 2011, after an intensive search process, they hired JH Petty and Associates of Springfield to serve as architects for the complex. Joe Petty, the firm's principal is a native of Pittsfield and has maintained a lifelong interest in the well-being of Pike County and specifically Pittsfield, his hometown.

The overarching intent of HWFPC's health complex project is to enable:

- Pike County residents to obtain the services they need at one location, with ease of access, and adjacent to Pittsfield's courthouse square;
- Partner with Pike County Health and Human services providers to better address residents anticipated health needs;
- Implementation of the "medical mall" model within a facility that has ease of access, plentiful parking and state-of-the-art components;
- Stimulate local economy through extensive new construction, attracting other projects to Pittsfield and keeping more residents in Pike County for ambulatory health services.

Current HWFPC Board Chairman, Dr. James Grote said of the project: "the Consolidated Health Complex serves as the Foundation's most significant initiative to date - one that we believe has an extensive, positive impact on many of the health needs facing Pike County while fulfilling the Foundations mission."

### **Project Partners**

In March of this year the Foundation met with the Pike County Board of Health and proposed that the Foundation build new a new Pike County Health Department (PCHD) facility within the complex. The deed to the new facility, designed to PCHD's requirements, would be traded for the deed to PCHD's existing property at 113 E. Jefferson, Pittsfield. The proposal was accepted unanimously by the Pike County Board of Health.

Of the PCHD proposal McIntosh said, "The Health Department serves a distinct role in affecting the health of Pike County and they have been working to meet those needs in a facility that presently needs thousands of dollars of repair. It is our expectation that their new facility will make it possible for the organization to work more efficiently and effectively; to take on new health initiatives as they present themselves; and most importantly - to focus on providing Pike County residents with the highest level of public health care possible."

PCHD received notification last week that they have been awarded a grant for \$400,000.00 from the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation (ICHF) to fund the development of a Safety Net Dental Clinic to provide dental services to Pike County's underserved children. The clinic will be built in conjunction with the new Health Department facility and will leverage utilization of shared staffing, resources and space. Located in Oak Brook, Illinois, ICHF has provided grant funding for the development of over 40 safety net dental clinics in Illinois with grants totaling more than \$36 million since 2002. An additional \$100,000.00 grant was awarded to PCHD in the spring of 2010 by

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to be used toward establishing a safety net dental clinic in Pike County.

Of their involvement in the project, Anita Andress PCHD Director said, “Pike County Health Department is honored that the Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County is committed to relocating the health department into the new facility along with the Safety Net Dental Clinic, which is made possible through private grant funding. Our current building is not suitable for remodeling or expansion. Having the Health Department and the Dental Clinic under one roof only makes sense, but we could not have done so without the assistance of the Foundation. Our Board of Health and staff are looking forward to partnering with the Foundation to assure access to health care, coordination of services, and efficient use of resources.”

HWFPC has been in ongoing discussion with other health and human services entities currently serving Pike County to explore and finalize their interest in participating in the projects. Within the next several months they will be announcing the remaining project partners as Letters of Intent are executed.

Walker Filbert, currently serving as Secretary/Treasurer on the HWFPC board of Directors and on the project Building Committee stated: “The Foundation is pleased to help health service providers in Pike County in maximizing local resources so as to better serve every resident not just today, but years into the future.”

### **About HWFPC**

Illini Community Health Care Foundation was organized in January 2003 and incorporated as a not-for-profit 501 c (3) public charity governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Since inception they have established two grant programs supporting health and wellness initiatives, the John S. Teuscher Health Scholarship Program providing educational opportunities to those pursuing health occupations, and has served as fiscal sponsor to multiple health collaboratives within Pike County. In January 2010, ICHCF changed their name to the Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County (HWFPC), to more accurately reflect an interest in wellness as manifested by health promotion and disease prevention in addition to their core focus on health care initiatives. All donations to HWFPC’s programs are fully tax-deductible as allowable by law. You can contact HWFPC by calling 217.285.6080 or email them at [ichcf@aol.com](mailto:ichcf@aol.com). **END**