Background on Zufall Health Center—October 2012

For more than 20 years, the Zufall Health Center has been providing high-quality, affordable medical treatment to the working poor, uninsured and underserved populations residing in and around Dover. Founded as the “Dover Community Clinic” by Dr. Robert Zufall and his wife, Kay, it was a tiny volunteer effort, operating just one night a week out of a modest room within the Morris County Organization of Hispanic Affairs. Today, the Zufall Health Center has grown into a seven-day-a-week, state-licensed, Federally Qualified Health Center and has extended its reach into numerous communities throughout northwestern New Jersey.

Comprehensive services at the Health Center include adult and pediatric medicine, dental care, women’s health, podiatry, HIV care, behavioral health and clinical pharmacy services. They are delivered by a dedicated and caring bi-lingual staff of board-certified physicians (paid and volunteer), dentists, social workers, pharmacists, and support professionals. The Health Center also offers enabling services that include eligibility assistance, case management, health literacy training, outreach, and translation.

Zufall Health Center’s 15,000 patients are among the neediest in the state. More than 70% are uninsured, with the remaining 30% on Medicaid, NJ Family Care or Medicare. Almost 90% have incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level. 75% of Zufall’s patients are Hispanic or Black, and almost 60% are best served in a language other than English.

During 2011, the Center built on its remarkable accomplishments to meet the increasing demand for affordable, quality care. Services at the Dover, Morristown and Highlands Health Van sites increased to a total of 46,000 patient visits. A new site in Hackettstown was opened to serve Warren County and surrounding rural areas. A newly renovated Dover office funded by a $4.5 million federal stimulus grant began operation in August 2012, doubling the medical and dental capacity for northwestern Morris County. One component of the project was the transformation of the existing health center office into a stand-alone Dental facility containing six dental operatories. In early 2013, a new Zufall dental center will be opened in Flemington.