

# EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers:

As many of you no doubt know, this year marks the 50th Anniversary of America's Health Centers.

In this commemorative issue of Community Health Forum, we wanted to tell the story of how Community Health Centers came to be and how and why they stand today as the largest, most successful primary care network in the nation.

It's a humble, yet not altogether simple story.

Starting with a fire lit by the social and political climates ripe for positive change in the 1960s, the history of Community Health Centers moves through years of many challenges and opportunities created by Administrations, policymakers, economic ups and downs and a constantly changing healthcare system. However, what has been constant from the very beginning and what remains today is the strong and united healthcare movement comprised of thousands of people who continue to nurture, protect and grow healthcare access where it's needed most.

To those who led the way in opening health center doors many years ago in communities all across the country — to those opening and keeping them open today — and to those who will open them tomorrow — we say THANK YOU! Our journey continues.

To your good health,



Claudia Green Gibson  
Executive Vice President  
National Association of Community Health Centers



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