

## **GOOD NEIGHBOR'S ROLE AS A FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER**

Following two years of community input and intensive planning by our Board of Directors and staff, Good Neighbor Healthcare Center was approved as a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center – Deemed Status (FQHC) by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in September, 2005. Having attained this status has allowed Good Neighbor to more fully address the crisis of having of so many medically uninsured or underinsured in the Greater Houston area. Indeed, studies indicate that one in three Houstonians do not have health insurance, and often go without an adequate level of medical care for themselves and their families. Ultimately, the overall health of the community suffers as a result.

As an FQHC, however, Good Neighbor has been able to offer several new crucial services to the low-income families that turn to the clinic for care – including Behavioral Health Services, a Class D Pharmacy (a pharmacy that only serves patients of the clinic, with a limited formulary), and an extended hours clinic – in addition to the array of services that have been available at the clinic for several years, such as Primary Health Care, Women's Care, Pediatric Care, and Dental Care. An FQHC must provide all of these services to its patients.

In turn, Good Neighbor's FQHC designation benefits the clinic in the following ways:

- ✓ Medical malpractice coverage
- ✓ Higher rates of Medicare reimbursement
- ✓ Drug pricing discounts

Good Neighbor also receives Federal funding as an FQHC. However, since this funding can only be used for new patients, community support becomes more important than ever.