

El Proyecto del Barrio

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Congressman Brad Sherman Announces Completion of New Medical/Dental Wing at El Proyecto del Barrio's Winnetka Facility

Winnetka, CA—August 22, 2007 — Congressman Brad Sherman (D-Sherman Oaks, CA) today announced the completion of a new medical/dental wing at El Proyecto del Barrio's S. Mark Taper Foundation Center for a Healthy Community in Winnetka. The new medical/dental wing includes a four-room dental services center, four new examination rooms and an in-house pharmacy. These advances were made possible because Congressman Sherman secured \$180,000 in federal funds to transform these rooms from office space to modern medical facilities.

"El Proyecto del Barrio has always provided quality healthcare services and many other social services for underserved areas of the San Fernando Valley," said Congressman Sherman. "The organization needed additional resources to handle its dramatically increased case load and to provide dental services to the thousands of Latino children in the San Fernando Valley who do not now receive timely dental care," he added. "This additional healthcare access will have a substantial positive impact on the health of the community for many years to come."

El Proyecto del Barrio will now provide dental services to underserved communities in the West San Fernando Valley, increase medical care to help stem the rising tide of HIV/AIDs in the Latino community and provide on-site access to medications for many uninsured patients. Congressman Brad Sherman also worked closely with Los Angeles City Councilmember Richard Alarcon to help El Proyecto secure \$415,000 in state funds to purchase dental, medical and pharmacy equipment for the newly renovated space.

Congressman Sherman is also sponsoring additional federal funding of \$150,000 to acquire a new mammography unit and upgrade the patient medical management system at El Proyecto's Winnetka facility.

"Congressman Sherman not only recognized the community need, he took decisive action to make sure that these expanded services will be available to our underserved patients," said Corinne Sánchez, El Proyecto del Barrio's President and CEO. "This new medical/dental wing is a vital component in the spectrum of high-quality preventive healthcare, dental, employment & training, substance abuse, mental health and at-risk youth programs we have brought to the community for more than 35 years."

"We salute Congressman Sherman for his continued leadership and vision, as well as his compassion for the people of his district who would not have access to many vital healthcare services without his strong and unwavering support," added Ms. Sánchez.

Founded to provide services to the northeast San Fernando Valley in 1971, El Proyecto has expanded its services to the entire San Fernando Valley, San Gabriel Valley and East Los Angeles, covering 400 square miles.

For additional information about El Proyecto del Barrio and its work, please contact Greg Waskul at (818) 550-9080 or (818) 926-0079 (cell).