



East End/Third Ward News

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Full-service health center opens in the Fifth Ward

Legacy at Lyons Avenue offers a variety of services

By **KIM HUGHES**

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Residents of Houston's Fifth Ward now have access to a full-service health-care facility, as Legacy Community Health Services recently opened a clinic at 5602 Lyons Ave.

More than 1,000 community members attended the grand opening ceremony on Sept. 30.

Jo Carcedo, director of development, said this is Legacy's 3rd clinic, with one at 215 Westheimer and another at 3311 Richmond Ave. "We had a significant number of patients from the Fifth Ward area going for services at the Westheimer location," Carcedo said. "We saw this as an opportunity to have them be seen in their own neighborhood. It made sense for us to be in that community."

The clinic offers wellness exams, family planning services and full laboratory services and offers mental health and social services. While they accept Medicare, Medicaid and various private insurance plans, they also operate on a sliding-fee scale.

"Twenty-eight percent of people living in that service area are below the family poverty level, which for a family of four is \$32,000," Carcedo said. The clinic, open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., is seeing an average of 15 patients a day.

"So far the most common health issues people have come in with are hypertension, diabetes, obesity and heart disease," said Jay Slemmer, a registered nurse and associate executive director for Legacy Community Health Services.

Ernest McMillan, executive director of the **Fifth Ward Enrichment Program (FWEP)**, said he's glad to welcome Legacy. "They are making themselves accessible to the community, and providing an opportunity for residents to have a medical home," said McMillan.



Rodney Rushing, 14, left, Demarcus Pierre, 10, and Ashkelon Khan, 12, **FWEP** Program Participants and volunteers, keep cool with snow cones at the Legacy Community Health Services open house.

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