

## Sixteenth Street health clinic undergoes \$1.3 million upgrade

By Georgia Pabst of the Journal Sentinel

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Rick Wood

Marco Antonio Moreno, 10, enjoys the wall art as he waits in a renovated pediatric clinic at the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center. Bright colors and new technology are part of the expansion.



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Cindy Tosado (background) and Norma Romo, both medical assistants at the clinic, use new wireless notepads to store medical and diagnostic information in the renovated pediatric clinic.

The Sixteenth Street Community Health Center has undergone \$1.3 million worth of renovations to provide improved facilities and services to the low-income, south side residents it serves.

The renovations were paid for with federal stimulus dollars and other funding from federal and foundation sources, said John Bartkowski, president and CEO of the center, 1032 S. Cesar Chavez Drive.

"We squeezed every dime from the dollars we received, and the center is beautiful," he said during a ceremony last week to thank donors and show off the improvements.

With \$448,000 in stimulus money - part of the money earmarked for "increased demand for services" - the clinic will add another doctor and three-person medical team, he said.

The clinic has also improved and expanded its examining rooms from 13 to 16 for more efficiencies for doctors and patients, he said. That was done with a total of \$750,000 that was received from targeted investment funds that Sen. Herb Kohl (D-Milwaukee) and Rep. Gwen Moore (D-Milwaukee) helped secure, he said.

Contributions from Northwestern Mutual Foundation and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation were also used for that project, Bartkowski said.

With another \$121,000 in stimulus funds, the center made improvements to the main reception area, the pediatric waiting room, the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, the center's parking lot and also created wireless notepads for the electronic health records system, he said.

"This is an invaluable institution in this part of our city," said Kohl, who was at the center Friday for a celebration of the renovations. "Community health centers serve the uninsured and the underinsured who would otherwise not be served."