



**Northeast Valley
Health Corporation**
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NEWS RELEASE

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TEEN HEALTH CENTER RECEIVES STATEWIDE INAUGURAL AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

San Fernando, CA – The Teen Health Center (THC) on the campus of San Fernando High School is the recipient of the 2016 Red Apple Award for School-Based Health Excellence. The THC, operated by Northeast Valley Health Corporation (NEVHC), was chosen by the California School-Based Health Alliance to receive the first-ever Red Apple Award because of the health center’s successful social media efforts.

“We are really happy and honored that our clinic is being recognized,” said Margarita Torres, NEVHC director of school health services. “This definitely highlights the hard work that our staff puts in every day to ensure that quality health care is available to these high school students. This is truly a team effort.”

The THC is being lauded for its success in reaching and educating teens via Instagram. During a six-month period, the health center’s Instagram followers tripled to 400. The staff sought out student Instagram followers by holding class presentations, offering giveaways and sponsoring health fairs.

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An \$18,000 grant from Kaiser Permanente Panorama City has been instrumental in the success of the social media program.

“The San Fernando High School Teen Health Center is doing amazing work through its innovative use of social media to connect students to care and in its efforts to build an extraordinary partnership with teachers,” said Serena Clayton, executive director of California School-based Health Alliance. “We are pleased to be able to recognize the clinic for its dedication to educating students about health care and providing comprehensive services to students at San Fernando High. We applaud the Teen Health Center for its contribution to building a healthier, equitable, and stronger community.”

The California School-Based Health Alliance is a statewide nonprofit organization helping to put more health services in schools. In California, there are nearly 250 health centers at schools that serve more than 257,000 students.

The THC, a 5,300-square-foot site that opened in May 2015, is available to more than 2,500 students who attend San Fernando, MacAlister and Mission Continuation high schools. Dental services are open to those students and to residents who are 6 months to 21 years old living in Northeast San Fernando Valley. Since 1987, NEVHC has operated a health center at San Fernando High to offer medical care to students regardless of their ability to pay.

NEVHC, a nonprofit Joint Commission accredited Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), operates 14 health centers in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys. It is one of the nation’s largest community health centers and is committed to providing health care in neighborhoods with a known shortage of health professionals to care for local residents.

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