



839 West Congress – Tucson, AZ 85745 – [www.elrio.org](http://www.elrio.org)

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Tucson, Arizona

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IN RESPONSE TO GROWING PATIENT DEMAND

## **El Rio Announces Grand Opening of New Southeast Clinic During National Health Center Week**

Thursday, August 13, 2009 from 4 to 6 pm

6950 E. Golf Links – (just west of Kolb Road on the south side of the road)

**El Rio Community Health Center announces the grand opening of a new El Rio Southeast Clinic that will define what a high performance patient-centered, medical building should be.** The building will be among the first community health center facilities in the United States designed in response to the emerging philosophy of *patient driven* centered care. The Southeast Clinic will offer patients and staff the latest in high performance community health center concepts: open patient access, electronic medical records, group examination, digital imaging, and staff team access.

El Rio was established in 1970 and currently serves over 74,000 patients annually. The organization has grown to a team of 700+ employees at 16 clinic sites and is ranked the 14<sup>th</sup> largest community health center in the country.

Join us Thursday, August 13, 2009 from 4-6 pm for the grand opening ceremony during “National Health Center Week 2009”. **Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and a representative of the office of Congressman Raul Grijalva along with El Rio Executive Director, Kathy Byrne are scheduled guest speakers for this important event.** The “National Health Center Week” celebration is sponsored by Pfizer Sharing the Care™, part of the Pfizer Helpful Answers® family of patient assistance programs.

The new Southeast clinic will provide a full compliment of core medical services. Care will be delivered by five medical providers with appropriate office support. Onsite services will also include pharmacy, radiology, laboratory, behavioral health care, and patient advocacy. The new clinic will provide a health care home to approximately 7,500-8,000 patients, many of whom are

low income and may have barriers to care. It is anticipated that the new site could offer as many as 19,245 medical visits per year.

El Rio's vision is to be a national model of excellent healthcare and will continue to develop new facilities that reinforce their positive presence in the community. The new building is expected to help reduce facility operating costs and the building design is the result of a collaborative effort between El Rio, Chestnut Construction, CDG Architects and Michael R. Wattis, Inc.

In 2007, El Rio's leadership team expanded their organization's definition of "community wellness" to include sustainable and environmentally responsible clinic facilities and work environments. This decision is now being implemented by building new sustainable clinics to benefit the community as a whole by promoting the health of staff and clients alike, consuming fewer local resources such as electric power and potable water, and utilizing local and recycled building materials.

El Rio's already strong focus on energy-efficient building design and heating/cooling technologies, renewable energy sources, office recycling efforts, and water-sensitive landscaped environments fueled their desire to design and build a LEED certified clinic, the first of its kind in Tucson, Arizona. **Taking community health to this next level distinguishes El Rio Community Health Center from its counterparts.**

Tucson Electric Power awarded El Rio Community Health Center a grant of 54 state-of-the-art photovoltaic panels for the building that will provide nearly 5% of the building's annual energy cost. The inverter will be displayed in the entrance court so that patrons can see that the use of renewable energy is available part of El Rio's commitment to the health of the community.

The media and members of the community are invited to join El Rio, guest speakers and the build and design team to view the new site, and learn about the "green" features that are being incorporated in the building to be more efficient and resource-responsible to our community.

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*Now in its 39th year, El Rio Community Health Center is the largest provider in Pima County of medical and dental services to uninsured and Medicaid populations with over 16 patient sites in the Tucson area serving over 74,000 patients annually. The El Rio Health Center Foundation was created in 2001 to fund new programs, enhance existing programs and help with capital needs at El Rio Community Health Center. The El Rio Foundation has now raised over \$7 million in support of the health center. For more information visit [www.elrio.org](http://www.elrio.org) and [www.elriofoundation.org](http://www.elriofoundation.org)*