The World Academy for Total Community Health (WATCH) is a public high school partnership of the Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center, the NYC Department of Education, and New Visions for Public School. WATCH is located on the campus of Thomas Jefferson H.S. in East NY, Brooklyn. The school's model is based on the proven effectiveness of education delivered in a small learning community, where class size is limited to 25 students. Since opening its doors in 2004, WATCH has achieved considerable success which, on its surface, is measurable:

- 80% graduation rate vs. 30% at Thomas Jefferson 5 years ago
- 60% of students earned Regents/Advanced Regents diplomas
- 52% of WATCH students were accepted into college

However, these statistics do not fully capture the true nature of WATCH's success. That success is better characterized by persistence in a journey that started four years ago with an idea to use health as a vehicle to improve the quality of high school education provided in the East New York community and its environs. Strategic partnerships of students, parents, teachers and community based organizations, are embodied in the hard wrought 80% graduation rate, the result of countless, often seemingly small steps taken in the process of building a community of learners— students, teachers, administrators and partners alike.

The confident faces of the first graduating class of WATCH, those 71 young men and women for whom high school now appeared an all too brief passage, were a tribute to those of us fortunate to have walked with them during those years. What we learned as an organization is that creating a high school was challenging in ways we did not foresee at the outset, however the joys are everything we hoped for and more than we imagined: We are grateful for the efforts and commitment of our partners and congratulate the students, teachers and administrators of WATCH for a terrific start!
The Wellness Education for Achieving Lifelong Total Health (W.E.A.L.T.H.) Department Has Been Busy!

BMS Family Health Center Presents Congressman Ed Towns With Award During National Health Centers Week, August 10th-17th 2008

The Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center (BMS) marked the celebration of National Health Centers Week 2008 with a special award presentation to the Honorable Congressman Ed Towns (10th District) for his support of the work of community health centers.

BMS is a leading community health center with diverse specialty services to complement its primary care OB-GYN, Pediatric and Adult Medicine practice. We chose to recognize Congressman Towns for his years of work in spearheading the passage of legislation that promotes community health. As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Sub-Committee on Health, Congressman Towns has helped to sponsor legislation to improve the quality of the air we breathe, to clean up toxic waste sites and to provide health care to senior citizens, among other laws.

“In reviewing the many years of dedicated and quality health care that BMS has provided to those most in need, I am very pleased to continue offering encouragement and support for the health center. Their investment in cutting edge technology such as electronic health records is further evidence of their drive to provide the best care possible” - Congressman Ed Towns.

BMS celebrated National Health Centers Week with a week of health education activities open to the general public.

BMS Free Senior Van Shuttle Service Launched

Emanating out of the WEALTH Dept.’s ’08 plan to enhance BMS Family Health Center’s capacity to provide health education and assistance to senior citizens in visiting the doctor, Mr. David Baldwin (outreach worker/van driver) successfully kicked-off the BMS Senior Van Shuttle Service in June 2008 by enrolling two seniors, from the Rosetta Gaston Senior Center in Brownsville, Brooklyn, to utilize BMS’ mobile access van.

In keeping with a client service philosophy of “You come first…we make it easy”, this new BMS Senior Van Shuttle Service is designed to help remove the obstacles of travel and travel costs health care. This service has the potential to reduce the number of patients who cancel or do not show up for scheduled appointments.

The purchase of the van was made possible through the funding from the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health.
**BMS@GENESIS,** our largest satellite health center is located in the heart of East New York, Brooklyn within the *Genesis Neighborhood Plaza,* at 360 Snediker Avenue. The health center, which offers OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Adult Medicine, HIV Counseling and the Prenatal Care Assistance Program opened its doors in March 2005.

The health center operates similar to a private physician’s office, with a patient focused delivery model. The patients absolutely love the personal attention, reduced wait times and the convenience. Word spread quickly and the patient visits have consistently increased. From January to June 2008 BMS@Genesis has already completed over 5,000 patient visits.

Not only is BMS@Genesis getting rave reviews for its operations, the health center has also received an achievement award for being dedicated to making sure that all children are immunized. On June 13, 2008 the City of New York Department of Health and Mental Hygiene recognized the BMS@Genesis for outstanding efforts in achieving high pediatric immunization coverage. BMS@Genesis was the only health center in Brooklyn to be so recognized.

For more information on BMS@Genesis call 646-459-9400.

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**A WORD from our CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, DR. KATHERINE GOLAR**

As summer draws to a close, many of us have returned to school or to work, perhaps starting new classes or new jobs. Here at BMS we have some “New Beginnings” as well. For some time now we have worked with area hospitals to bring additional specialty services to our patients and to the wider Brownsville community. Several of these specialists are now based at the BMS Institute for Specialty and Integrative Services (BMS ISIS@Bristol), our newest location (259 Bristol Street, 3rd Fl, Brooklyn, NY 11207).

With a referral from their primary care practitioner, our patients have access to consultation for surgery, respiratory conditions, kidney disease, and evaluation by a specialist in physical medicine and rehabilitation (as an addition to our physical therapy service). This November have added a gastroenterologist who is based at ISIS, with easier access to colonoscopy – the important screening test for colon cancer that is recommended for everyone 50 and older.

In another exciting development, we are also expanding the services available to our adolescent patients and all the students who benefit from the services provided at BMS@Jefferson, our school-based health center. Starting this September, these will span the range from inhaled influenza vaccine – instead of flu shots! – to enhanced reproductive health services for our teenagers. We had a kick-off event September 25th at the school to let students and others know all about what’s new.

At the end of the day, all of these new developments are very much in keeping with our mission to deliver high-quality health services to the communities we serve. At BMS, our goal is *total health.* And as we see it, health is much more than just the absence of disease. Health starts with each of us doing all that we can to take good care of ourselves, our families and our community. And in this important election season, *remember to register and vote!* If you’re already registered, encourage your family and friends! Your vote does make a difference, and the *total health* of community, our city, state and nation – and the global community of which we are all a part – depends on us all.

We wish you the best of health!

For more information about BMS ISIS@Bristol call 718-342-0060.
Every month BMS recognizes outstanding employees through the Employee Recognition Program. Supervisors can nominate an employee for their outstanding services, then based on a point system a committee decides the Employee of the Month. The employee receives a cash award and certificate. We would like to send out a Congratulations and Thank you for your hard work to the following employees of the month:

**June 2008:** Roxanne Crawford, Administrative Assistant to Chief Medical Officer; BMS family member for 1 year.

**July 2008:** Rainford Haughton, Case Manager, Community Follow Up Program; BMS family member for 9 years

**August:** Dr. Rosmarie Regis, Pediatrician. BMS family member for 15 years.

Congratulations!!!!!!
Every third Saturday in July, Rockaway Avenue between Blake and Dumont is closed for the BMS Summerfest Celebration. On July 19th, BMS once again hosted a street/health fair for the community to show appreciation and to remind the residents that “At BMS, you come first; we make it easy…”

The day was complete with free bar-b-que, health screenings, entertainment and fun activities for the children. The Bar-B-Que was delicious and served with mouth watering watermelon and flavorful sweet tea. The Empowering Youth Club, Lenox Road Baptist Church Christian Youth Chorus, and the Approaching Storm Marching Band provided incredible entertainment. The children enjoyed themselves while playing games and getting their faces painted. Throughout the day politicians including Assemblyman William Frank Boyland Jr., Cleopatra Brown, Member of the Democratic State Committee and Deputy Borough President Yvonne Graham (representing Marty Markowitz) added to the festive event.

All in all the BMS Summerfest was a huge success and we could not have done it without all of the organizations that participated and MetroPlus and Healthplus, who sponsored the event.

Visit or Call us today for an appointment (718) 342-0060

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BMS-ISIS @ Bristol Health Center

259 Bristol Street (between Blake – Dumont), 3rd Floor
Brooklyn, New York 11212

Now Open! Institute for Specialty and Integrative Services
BMS Highlights

Congratulations to Mr. Vernon Williams, Registered Physician Assistant (pictured left) for receiving the Health Care Professional Hero Award. Mr. Williams received the award on August 14, 2008 during National Health Center Week. He was recognized, “For his unwavering commitment to the best in health care delivered with great compassion.” Mr. Williams has been a full time pediatric physician assistant with BMS for 13 years.

- The BMS Website went live August 1, 2008. Since then it has had over 1,000 visits. This is a great opportunity for BMS to increase its visibility and enhance communication with our constituents. Please check us out at www.bmsfhc.org.

- BMS continues to develop new and creative ways to fulfill the needs of our community. Just recently we received a Give Kids a Smile grant from the American Dental Association Foundation. This award has allowed us to offer free dental mobile screenings to 233 community members.

- On September 5, 2008 at 2:00 pm BMS and Healthplus sponsored a Back-to-School Blast, giving away free school supplies. The event was a success. We were able to provide over 300 parents with school supplies. BMS strongly believes in the education of our children.

Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center
592 Rockaway Ave.
Brooklyn, New York 11212

VISIT US at www.bmsfhc.org