

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GOVERNOR PERDUE PROCLAIMS IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS

Hendersonville, NC, February 17, 2010– “All youth in NC deserve access to comprehensive health care,” stated Governor Perdue in a recent proclamation, designating February 14-20 as NC School Community Health Alliance Week. “School-based and school-linked health centers in NC provide accessible, affordable, quality health care and health education that improves the lives of young people and their families.”

According to the NC Dept. of Health and Human Services, fifty six school-based health centers operate in NC, making a difference in the lives of 13,581 students. The Governor’s proclamation goes on to assert that “School-based health centers positively impact the economy by reducing emergency room visits, by decreasing parental absences from work, and by increasing early detection and treatment of disease, thus preventing more expensive treatment at a later date.”

Blue Ridge Community Health Services (BRCHS) operates health centers at Bruce Drysdale Elementary, Apple Valley Middle School and North Henderson High School to help ensure that children in Henderson County have a medical home and access to regular check-ups, immunizations, diagnoses, management of chronic conditions, a place to turn for sudden illness or injury, mental health counseling, nutrition services and health education. A fourth health center will open at Hillandale Elementary later this year.

The first school-based health center in Henderson County opened in 1994. Over the last five years, BRCHS School Health Program has provided over 26,000 medical, mental health, and nutrition encounters to the children of Henderson County.

BRCHS has been serving Hendersonville and the surrounding communities for more than 45 years in an effort to increase access to health care for all, with special emphasis on the underserved and the uninsured. Programs and services include high quality and affordable medical, dental, school-based and mental health care as well as the promotion of health awareness/education. BRCHS is accredited by the Joint Commission.

If you would like more information about BRCHS, call 692-4289 ext. 2509; write to BRCHS at P. O. Box 5151, Hendersonville, NC 28793; or visit online at www.brchs.com.