**HARVARD DONATES $250,000 TO JOSEPH M. SMITH COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**

***New, state-of-the-art medical facility to open in Allston early next year***

ALLSTON– Harvard University this week made a $250,000 contribution to the Joseph M. Smith Community Health Center (JMSCHC). The funds will go towards the new, state-of-the-art medical building which is set to open in Allston early next year. The JMSCHC currently serves more than 12,000 patients each year and has five separate locations in both Allston and Waltham. This new facility will allow the health center to consolidate two of the five sites, and to serve an additional 5,500 patients.

For forty years the JMSCHC has been working to improve the health of residents in Allston, Brighton and Waltham. It offers community-based comprehensive primary medical, dental and counseling services. It has a particular focus on increasing access to quality, affordable services and preventative care, and on eliminating health disparities throughout the community.

“Harvard has had a long partnership with the Joseph M. Smith Community Health Center. We are thrilled that we are able to continue to help support the Center and their entire community in such a positive and meaningful way, and we look forward to our continued partnership,” said Kevin Casey, Associate Vice-President of Public Affairs at Harvard University.

“We are delighted that Harvard has made this commitment to the health center’s new building project,” said Elizabeth Browne, JMSCHC’s Executive Director. “A new state-of-the art facility, together with our long-standing partnership with Harvard to train the medical and dental providers of the future is critical to the success and health of the Allston and Brighton communities, and allows us to meet the growing needs for both insured and uninsured patients in our neighborhood.”

JMSCHC is committed to providing the highest-quality, comprehensive, culturally sensitive, and affordable primary healthcare to residents of Allston-Brighton, Waltham and the surrounding communities, regardless of circumstance.

For more information about the health center, its new project or its upcoming 40th Anniversary Gala on October 23rd, please visit [www.jmschc.org](http://www.jmschc.org).

**###**