

## Neighborhood House, Amerigroup Washington's Mobile Health Van to Increase Free On-Site Health Education and Screenings for Immigrants and Refugees Residents



**SEATTLE** – Aug. 22 – According to the World Health Organization, cultural beliefs, language, transportation, and legal rights often prevent immigrant and refugee populations from accessing health care services, which could prevent or adequately treat a behavioral or physical health issue. This is why on Wednesday, Aug. 23, Neighborhood House and Amerigroup Washington will unveil a new 200 square-foot mobile health van that will bring free on-site health education in various languages and screenings to residents in King County who don't have easy access to health services due to transportation.

“Amerigroup Washington has long been one of our partners, so when they heard that we needed a mobile health van, they came through with a vehicle for our needs,” said Warya Pothan, director of community health programs at Neighborhood House. “This mobile health van allows for our community health workers, who are culturally and linguistically knowledgeable to connect with diverse community members that have unique needs and often shy away from clinics or health services.”

Amerigroup Washington has donated the mobile health van and Neighborhood House's multi-lingual community health workers will staff the van as it travels around King County to provide information on preventing substance abuse and other chronic diseases, referrals to health services, rapid testing for HIV and Hepatitis C, and linkage to substance abuse and mental health treatment services.

“Amerigroup remains committed to ensuring that members of the community have greater access to in-language health education and services across King County,” said Craig Smith, Amerigroup Washington president. “We are thrilled to be partnering with Neighborhood House, given their community health workers' long-lasting presence in King County, and their mission to offer healthcare solutions across all communities that most need the care.”

A ribbon cutting and unveiling for the mobile health will take place at the High Point Healthy Families Celebration at Neighborhood House High Point Center in Seattle on Wednesday, Aug.23 at 5 p.m. The mobile health van will make stops across King County. For more information about the mobile health van will be, please call Mike Graham-Squire, Neighborhood House Program Manager of Youth and Health Services at (206) 353-7945.

#### **About Neighborhood House**

From our earliest beginnings serving Jewish immigrants in the 1900s to our work today with people from numerous countries and cultures, Neighborhood House has helped generations of families fulfill the promise of America — an education for their children, self-sufficiency for their families and a meaningful place in a caring community. The mission of Neighborhood House is to partner with diverse individuals and families to build community and achieve their goals for health, education and self-sufficiency.

#### **About Amerigroup Washington**

Amerigroup Washington helps improve health care access and quality for approximately 140,000 Medicaid Washington citizens by developing innovative care management programs and services. Members are assured care that is not only accessible, but also accountable, comprehensive, integrated and patient-centered. Amerigroup provides ongoing community relations and outreach to encourage members to become active participants in their health care. Through health education programs, members are empowered to choose and sustain a healthy lifestyle.

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