

NEWS

For Immediate Release September 14, 2009 Contact: Kristine Roselius 415.749.4900

Breathmobile makes Northern California debut

Mobile asthma clinic begins serving the East Bay

SAN FRANCISCO – The Breathmobile, a mobile pediatric asthma clinic, makes its Northern California debut today at 9 a.m. in Emeryville, at the Ana Yates Elementary School.

"The Breathmobile is a significant step toward helping East Bay children with asthma breathe easier," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "Combining asthma education and support will help children with asthma stay healthy."

The Breathmobile provides an asthma management program for children from economically disadvantaged families. The program focuses on regular preventive care to reduce emergency episodes.

The Breathmobile is managed by the Prescott-Joseph Center for Community Enhancement in West Oakland. It is sponsored by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, AC Transit, the Port of Oakland, Union Pacific Railroad, and Wells Fargo Bank.

"The Breathmobile concept has proven to be very successful in Southern California," said Dr. Washington Burns, executive director of the Prescott-Joseph Center. "A total of 85 percent of all patients were able to manage and control their asthma within six months. We are striving for similar success in Alameda County."

The Breathmobile will travel monthly to 20 schools and other sites to provide services free of cost in West Oakland, East Oakland, Emeryville and Berkeley, and others. For more information about the Breathmobile program, call the Prescott-Joseph Center for Community Enhancement at 510-835-8683.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is the regional agency chartered with protecting air quality in the Bay Area. For more information, visit www.baaqmd.gov.