



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 09, 2015

CONTACT: Ralph Borrmann

415.749.4900

Air District funds expansion of Breathmobile in the East Bay

Mobile asthma clinic will now serve San Pablo, Hayward & Chinatown in Oakland

SAN FRANCISCO – Last week the Bay Area Air Quality Management District approved a \$100,000 grant to the Prescott-Joseph Center for the expansion of the Breathmobile to children and families living in the cities of San Pablo, Hayward, and Chinatown in Oakland.

The Breathmobile is a free mobile asthma clinic staffed by a team of medical specialists which travels to schools and other sites to provide free preventative asthma care services, including full service evaluation, treatment and education. Every patient leaves with an asthma action plan that is shared with teachers and caregivers, medication, or means to obtain medication.

"Asthma is one of the main causes of emergency hospitalization among children each year," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "Many factors contribute to asthma triggers, so it's important to reach children in impacted communities and provide medical help and education where they live."

The program currently serves 17 sites including the communities of Oakland, West Contra Costa County, Bay View Hunters Point in San Francisco, along with school and head start sites in Alameda County: Emeryville, San Leandro, Berkeley, San Lorenzo and the City of Alameda.

"The Air District has been one of our most supportive community partners for the Breathmobile program," said Washington Burn, retired pathologist and Volunteer Executive Director of Prescott Joseph. "This grant is a wonderful boost to help us reduce asthma disparities in the Bay Area at a time when asthma management programs are so badly needed."

Since 2009, the Air District has supported the Breathmobile's services. It has been very effective in reducing asthma-related emergency room visits, hospitalizations and school absenteeism in these areas by providing regular preventative care.

Children are more strongly affected by air pollution because their lungs and bodies are still developing. They are also exposed to more air pollution than adults since they breathe more rapidly and spend more time actively outdoors. Medical studies indicate that high concentrations of ozone and small particle pollution correlates with asthma, which now affects one out of every six children in the Bay Area.

The Breathmobile is managed by the Prescott-Joseph Center for Community Enhancement in West Oakland. It is sponsored by a coalition of government and industry including the Air District.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. # # #