



## **Venice Family Clinic and Common Ground Merge to Provide Enhanced Care and Services for those Living with HIV/AIDS on Los Angeles' Westside**

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Venice, CA -- Two of Los Angeles' preeminent health care and service providers for those in need have merged to form Venice Family Clinic Common Ground. Located at the former Common Ground site in Santa Monica, the facility will continue to offer critical support to those living with HIV/AIDS on Los Angeles' Westside.

With recent changes to federal funding reimbursements for service providers mandated under the Affordable Care Act, it became clear that Common Ground would not be able to keep its doors open. Longtime community partner Venice Family Clinic acted quickly to ensure that the organization's important contribution to this vulnerable community continues. For the last twenty years, the two organizations have collaborated to provide the only continuum of HIV care on the Westside to thousands of people living with HIV.

"As longtime partners of Common Ground, we know how many people rely on the critical, high-quality services they provide," said Elizabeth Benson Forer, Chief Executive Officer of Venice Family Clinic. "This merger will ensure there will be no gap in service by bringing together two renowned teams committed to working in partnership to address the health care and service needs of those living with HIV."

In addition to mental health and case management services, peer-to-peer counseling and preventive services, last year Common Ground provided 1,500 HIV tests and removed more than 150,000 dirty needles through a needle exchange program. Venice Family Clinic's mission is to provide quality primary health care to people in need. Every year, more than 24,000 people seek support from the clinic's expert team including HIV/AIDS testing, treatment and counseling.

### About [Venice Family Clinic](#)

Venice Family Clinic provides quality health care to people in need. With nine clinical sites in Venice, Santa Monica, Mar Vista, Inglewood and Culver City, Venice Family Clinic is the medical home for thousands of low-income and uninsured families across Los Angeles. In 2012, with the support of donors and over 2,000 volunteers, including 500 physicians, Venice Family Clinic, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization, provided quality medical, dental, mental health, vision and specialty care to more 24,000 men, women and children with nowhere else to turn.

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