



Nightingale

Affinia Healthcare Family Medicine Residency Program receives grant from St. Louis County Port Authority

Affinia Healthcare is one of 38 nonprofit organizations set to receive a grant from the St. Louis County Port Authority (Port Authority).

The grant, totaling \$150,000 of the \$4.9 million overall fund, will help with the newly developed Affinia Healthcare Family Medicine Residency Program launching in June 2026 at the Ferguson location.

“This award will go towards the remodeling of our Ferguson Health Center building to house the Family Medicine Residency Program, providing dedicated space for the Residents, as required for accreditation,” said Affinia Healthcare Vice President, Development and Community Relations Yvonne Buhlinger.

This grant comes from the Port Authority’s Community Investment Fund, a program which supports the economic and community development projects aligned with the Port Authority.

“These organizations were chosen from a record number of applicants because we felt that they had great potential to help make our St. Louis region a better place to work and live,” said Ambassador Kevin F. O’Malley,



The Affinia Healthcare Family Medicine Residency Program will be housed at the Ferguson Health Center.

chair of the St. Louis County Port Authority. “Like our funding the new St. Louis-London flights announced in October, we are hopeful that the investments we announce today will provide new opportunities and improve the economy of St. Louis County and the region.”

The Family Medicine Residency Program received full accreditation from the Accreditation Council for

See [Residency](#), cont’d on page 3

Affinia Healthcare celebrates unveiling of new environmentally sustainable project

Affinia Healthcare is excited to announce the completion of environmental improvements to the Biddle Health Center. The beautiful addition will help capture and filter stormwater naturally, create inviting green space for all to enjoy, and benefit the surrounding community.

The rainscaping features will control rain where it falls, reducing local flooding by slowing stormwater runoff and enhancing water quality in the Mississippi River.

“This project is an opportunity to improve our property by offering access to beautiful natural spaces on-site and contribute to citywide efforts to be better stewards of our environment,” said Chris Overmann, Assistant Vice President of Operations and New Business Development.

Affinia Healthcare completed two amended soils areas, one pervious concrete area and four rain gardens. St. Louis Project Clear Large Stormwater Grants Program, an initiative led by the Metropolitan Sewer

See [Environment](#), cont’d on page 3



Celebrating Excellence, Care & Compassion

Distinguished Service Award: Dr. Kendra Holmes, President & CEO, was selected for the Service to the Community Award 2025, part of the University of Health Sciences & Pharmacy in St. Louis Distinguished Service Awards. Honorees were selected because of their distinctive and sustained contributions in their profession and to the community.



Holmes

Board Member: LeAnn Frazier, Director, Family Health and Wellness, was appointed to the Nurses for Newborn-Missouri Board of Directors. Nurses for Newborns (NFN) provides critical healthcare services to infants and expecting mothers who experience a wide range of medical, economic, environmental and social risks. Frazier, an RN, is happy to serve on this Board as NFN mission aligns closely with the work being done at Affinia Healthcare.



Frazier



Richardson

Registered Dietitian: Congratulations to **Jonah Richardson**, WIC-Dietitian, who recently became a Registered Dietitian. This now allows him to assist patients even more with various health issues like weight management, diabetes and more.

CHW Training Program: Patient Care Coordinator, **Sabrina Person** completed the Community Health Worker Training Program. Completing this program allows her to continue providing vital services to our patients as CHWs advocate on behalf of patients, connect them with resources and more.



Person



Congratulations to this quarter's I Know Quality When I See It honorees! These individuals, whether they work directly with patients or behind the scenes, have been recognized for making meaningful contributions every day that help support a culture of quality across the organization. The winners are: **Dr. Jessica Norton**, Assistant Medical Director of Reproductive Health; **Kiara Standifer**, Medical Assistant; **LaWanda Richardson**, HR Recruiting Specialist; **Maria Proctor**, Clinical Assistant; **Marwa Shahab**, Refugee Program Specialist; **Zerina Martin**, Ancillary Services Coordinator; **Denise Johnson**, Clinic Manager; **Meiti Campbell**, Dental Assistant.



Norton



Standifer



Richardson



Proctor



Campbell



Johnson



Martin



Shahab




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EMPLOYEE *of the 3rd* Quarter

MARWA SHAHAB

Refugee Program Specialist

Marwa has been with Affinia Healthcare for two years. She is responsible for coordinating schedules and more with patients. Marwa enjoys working at Affinia Healthcare because she feels valued and the organization makes healthcare accessible for everyone.

Congratulations!

www.affiniahealthcare.org



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NURSE *of the Quarter*

STACEY BOLING

Managed Care Patient Support Nurse

Congratulations Stacey Boling, Affinia Healthcare Managed Care Patient Support Nurse, Nurse of the Quarter!

Stacey has been with Affinia Healthcare for six years. She enjoys serving the patients and providing the best customer service possible. She became a nurse because she was inspired by the nurses she encountered and saw how courageous they were. "The nurses were strong, courageous to advocate and showed so much care and kindness during the time when this was most needed," she said.

Congratulations and thank you for your dedication to our patients!

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Milestone Celebrations

Numerous employees recently celebrated significant milestone anniversaries with Affinia Healthcare. Although everyone is not pictured, we appreciate everyone for their commitment, hard work and dedication to serving our patients and the community. Congratulations!



Celebrating 20 years of service, from the left, Dorothy Rodgers, Compliance Specialist; Cathy Pham, Pharmacy Technician; Elma Buie, Dental Director of Operations; Trena Williams (left), Florissant Director of Health Center Operations congratulates Darlenna Cannon (right), Receptionist; Dr. Amal Antoun (left), Pediatrician and Summer Boyer (right), Women's Health Nurse Practitioner.

Residency *cont'd from page 1*

Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) earlier this year, allowing for the recruitment of future professionals. The application deadline closed last month with an overwhelming response.

"We received over one thousand applications and will be completing 94 interviews for our four slots," said Family Medicine Residency Program Director Dr. Kenneth Hembra. "We're happy with the response of the number of applicants. We know the Program will not only expand access to care but also builds a sustainable pipeline of highly competent providers committed to health access and long-term impact."

To learn more about the Family Medicine Residency Program, please visit www.affiniahealthcare.org/family-medicine-residency/.



Affinia Healthcare is nationally recognized for efforts to improve blood pressure control

Affinia Healthcare has been recognized by the American Heart Association and American Medical Association for its commitment to improving blood pressure (BP) control rates, earning Silver Plus-level recognition as part of Target: BP™.

The Silver Plus achievement award recognizes practices that have demonstrated a commitment to improving blood pressure control through evidence-based practices for BP measurement and treatment.

High blood pressure, or hypertension, is a leading risk factor for heart attacks, strokes and preventable death in the U.S. There are 122.4 million U.S. adults living with hypertension. This is nearly half of all adults in the country. Unfortunately, just a quarter of them have their BP under control, making both diagnosis and effective management critical. In the U.S., heart disease and stroke are the No. 1 and No. 5 causes of death, respectively, and stroke is a leading cause of disability.

“Addressing blood pressure management is key for better cardiovascular health – and critical today, when heart disease and stroke continue to be leading causes of

death for adults in the U.S.,” said Dr. Kendra Holmes, Affinia Healthcare President & CEO. “High blood pressure is a leading risk factor of heart disease and stroke that can often be prevented or managed if diagnosed and treated properly.”

Target: BP is a national initiative formed by the American Heart Association and American Medical Association in response to the high prevalence of uncontrolled blood pressure. The initiative aims to help health care organizations and care teams, at no cost, improve blood pressure control rates through an evidence-based quality improvement program and recognizes organizations, like Affinia Healthcare that are committed to improving blood pressure control.

“By committing to helping more people in the St. Louis area control their blood pressure and reduce their risks for future heart disease and stroke, Affinia Healthcare is taking a key step to helping more people live longer, healthier lives,” said Warren Vongpatanasin, M.D., volunteer member of the Target: BP Advisory Group and liaison to the American Heart Association Hypertension Council. “Affinia Healthcare’s participation in the Target: BP

initiative shows its dedication to turning clinical guidelines into lifelines for patients and their families.” You can learn more at TargetBP.org.



Dr. Gabriel Msengi, Affinia Healthcare Pharmacist in the department viewing medications for blood pressure management.



Environment *cont'd from page 1*

District, funded this project. The \$600,000 grant paid for infrastructure improvements bringing high performing systems to the site.

“Rainscaping reduces local flooding, manages stormwater runoff and helps reduce pollution that would otherwise flow into the Mississippi River,” said Greenprint Partners Associate Engineer Lucy Kopchak. “The amended soil areas and rain gardens help absorb rainwater, allowing it to drain directly into the soil.”



One of the four rain garden beds added to the Biddle Health Center for environmental improvements.



For Your Information

AFFINIA HEALTHCARE

ARE YOU COVERED?

If you have lost Medicaid health insurance coverage, know that you are not alone.



With our experienced Health Outreach Team by your side, re-enrolling in Medicaid health insurance is easier than you think.

For more information or assistance, please call our Health Outreach Team at 314-814-8630 or 314-898-4281.

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EARLY HIV TESTING IS KEY



The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends everyone aged 13-64 consider getting an HIV test — it's quick, easy, and a step forward in taking control of your health.

The HIV Prevention Team is proud to stand with the CDC to support your health & well-being. Let's create a healthier future together. Your health, your choice!




WHY TEST EARLY?

- ✓ Early is smart!
- ✓ Affinia Healthcare is here to support you.
- ✓ You can take your test privately.
- ✓ Visit the Affinia Healthcare website at www.affiniahealthcare.org/HIV-prevention-care to schedule your private HIV test.




www.affiniahealthcare.org 314-399-1331

AFFINIA HEALTHCARE

Have you had your annual mammogram?

Early detection saves lives!

Affinia Healthcare is partnering with BJC Healthcare to provide mammograms to our patients. Mammograms will be available at the following dates & times:



8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Monday, January 26	2220 Lemp Avenue St. Louis, 63104
8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Monday, February 9	4414 N. Florissant Avenue St. Louis, 63107
8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Monday, February 23	1717 Biddle Street St. Louis, 63106
9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Monday, March 16	3396 Pershall Road St. Louis, 63135
8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Monday, March 23	2220 Lemp Avenue St. Louis, 63104

To register in advance or for more information, please contact Naila Hudson, CHW at 314.814.8552 (office), 314.477.4197 (cell) or by email at nmurtic@affiniahealthcare.org

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AFFINIA HEALTHCARE

Women's Perinatal Loss & Grief Support

If you have experienced a loss related to a pregnancy, please consider attending a group session or schedule an individual appointment for support.



Sessions led by Rebekah Hassler, CNM

Rebekah Hassler is a Certified Nurse Midwife with a master's certification in Spiritual Direction. She also has served as a bereavement coordinator and hospital chaplain. Rebekah holds certifications in Advanced Evaluation and Management of Psychiatric Illness in Reproductive-Age Women, as well as Perinatal Mental Health.

2nd Tuesday of the month
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Affinia Healthcare
3930 S. Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63118

"Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in our hearts" A.A. Milne

For more information or to schedule an appointment:
314.814.8700
www.affiniahealthcare.org



AFFINIA HEALTHCARE™

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Our Locations

4414 North Florissant Avenue

2220 Lemp Avenue

3930 South Broadway Street

1717 Biddle Street

6763 Page Avenue

3396 Pershall Road

3030 S. Grand

St. Louis Dental Center

Affinia Healthcare Program Management Office

Flance Early Childhood Center

The Salvation Army Midtown Service
and Treatment Center

Connect with Affinia Healthcare on Social Media

Please like us on **Facebook**:

www.facebook.com/affiniahealthcare

www.facebook.com/Affinia-Healthcare-WIC-Program-566603083429888/

www.facebook.com/stldentalcenter

See our videos on **YouTube** (Affinia Healthcare)

Follow us on **Instagram**:

www.instagram.com/affinia_healthcare/

www.instagram.com/affinia_healthcare_friends/

www.instagram.com/affiniahealthcareWIC

www.instagram.com/affinia_midwifery

TikTok: www.tiktok.com/affiniahealthcare

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