

**Attention Providers:** Please feel free to share this information with your First Choice patients. See attached flyer for more details.

Healthy Connections 

## First Choice is opening a new and expanded community center in Columbia!

Special edition

### Come Celebrate the Opening!

First Choice will be celebrating its new and expanded community center this holiday season. You are invited to the open house on Saturday, December 9, from noon to 3 p.m. There will be tours of the new center, cooking demonstrations, flu shots, and more!

The new First Choice Community Center is now located at:

**217 Park Terrace Drive, Suite 100**

**Columbia, SC 29212**

**(off Harbison Boulevard next to Academy Sport and Guitar Center)**

### A Community Presence

For 22 years, First Choice by Select Health of South Carolina has worked to provide access to high-quality health care. First Choice was the first Medicaid health plan in South Carolina, and today serves more than 358,000 South Carolina members in all 46 counties. First Choice is also proud to be the top-rated Medicaid plan and quality leader in the state, according to the National Committee for Quality Assurance. Since the beginning, First Choice has been driven by its mission to help people get care, stay well, and build healthy communities.

Building healthy communities in South Carolina means building connections, partnerships, and relationships. It means having a physical presence in the community to help and serve. In 2009, the company opened the First Choice Community Center in Columbia to provide information to plan members and citizens living in the greater Columbia area about programs, services, and resources available to assist them.

The community center offers resources throughout the year, including preventive health education, notary services, and access to SC Thrive's Benefit Bank. The Benefit Bank simplifies applications for food assistance, student aid, tax filings, and more. All staff members at the community center are trained Benefit Bank counselors.

One First Choice plan member, a single mother with a young son, came to the center for help with her taxes, but then realized all of the other services it provided. "It's definitely been a blessing," she said.

The center is also home to special community outreach and health education events, including the yearly Jump-Start Back-to-School celebration for school-age children and their families.

The event features back-to-school information, health screenings, children's activities, and school supplies. By teaming up with health care providers, agencies and community partners, children get the checkups and school supplies they need to start the school year off right.



### Our New Center

"The First Choice Community Center is designed to serve as a community hub, a place to access services and support, aimed at improving health, wellness and overall quality of life, and we are excited to announce that we are opening a new community center to better serve Columbia area residents," said First Choice Market President Rebecca Engelman.

The new location and additional square footage provides for expanded services and enhanced meeting and gathering space. The center will have computers for people to use and access community resources. The space will also include a kitchen suitable for cooking demonstrations as well as a designated children's area.

Providers are also welcome to use the center for meetings, health education, and screenings or special events.

Eager to share this new center and all its offerings, First Choice looks forward to welcoming and serving Columbia area residents at the new center for many years to come!

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