

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

**HEALTH CENTER WEEK
August 7 - 13, 2011**

WHEREAS, Keeping families and communities healthy presents a unique challenge in Alaska. Geographic isolation and financial, cultural, and language barriers separate many families and communities from the resources necessary to meet their wellness needs; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's network of 142 Community Health Centers and delivery sites extend across the state, providing health care and other services to Alaskan residents, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. Community Health Centers are the family doctor and medical home for over 86,000 individuals in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers are local, nonprofit, community-owned facilities. They are open to all Alaskans and provide health care access to low-income and medically underserved populations and areas. For 40 years, Community Health Centers have provided high-quality, affordable primary care and preventive services to the nation's most vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers have made a significant difference in Alaska's health care system by maintaining a high standard of accountability, empowering communities to enhance opportunities for children and families, and by providing health care services in accessible, cost-effective environments; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Centers have improved access to quality health care by providing trained professionals in areas that had previously been unserved or underserved. Community Health Centers promote individual responsibility and health awareness in a community setting and offer primary, preventative health care of the highest quality. Access to health care reduces preventable deaths, chronic disease disparities, costly disabilities, and communicable diseases; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to raise awareness of, and increase support for, Community Health Centers throughout the State of Alaska and in our local community. Community Health Centers play a vital role in ensuring access to healthcare for all Alaskans and in supporting Alaska's commitment to the provision of primary health care to its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, James C. Hornaday Mayor of the City of Homer, do hereby proclaim August 7 – 13, 2011 as:

Health Center Week in Alaska, and encourage all community residents to recognize and support the important contribution of Alaska's health centers in improving the quality of life for all Alaskans.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause to be affixed the official seal of the City of Homer, Alaska, on this 25th day of July, 2011.

CITY OF HOMER

ATTEST:

JAMES C. HORNADAY, MAYOR

JO JOHNSON, CMC, CITY CLERK