

SHARE SPONSORS HEALTH CLINIC INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTING THE DANGERS OF AIR POLLUTION AND ITS EFFECTS ON ASTHMA RATES



Dr. Frank Flores addresses the audience at the Plaza Del Sol Health Center

On February 14, 2012, SHARE (Safe, Healthy, Affordable and Reliable Energy) sponsored a Health Clinic Initiative in conjunction with Plaza del Sol Health Center on air pollution and how it affects individuals living with asthma. The event included a presentation by Dr. Frank Flores, a specialist in emergency medicine and CEO of Urgicare Medical Associates, Inc. Plaza Del Sol Health Center is a premier health facility located in the heart of a vibrant immigrant and under-privileged community.

A recent report by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on toxic emissions across the country found that more toxic emissions were emitted from businesses within Queens County than any other borough in New York City.

Additionally, the American Lung Association's 2011 State of the Air report assigned Queens a "D" for the quality of its air. The poor air quality within Queens and across New York City has led to record high asthma rates, particularly in low-income and minority communities.

"As New Yorkers, we must all be concerned about air pollution and its effects on asthma rates, even if we do not suffer from the disease," stated Dr. Frank Flores. "Communities need to become more active and have a clear understanding of the dangers associated with increased air pollution."

"New York City's poor air quality continues to have a direct effect on the health of our communities," stated Yonel Letellier Sosa, Executive Director of SHARE. "SHARE is here today to educate the community about the dangers of air pollution and the steps that need to be taken to protect our health and the health of our children."

"I am truly grateful to SHARE for providing this presentation," stated Helen Arteaga, Director of Plaza Del Sol. "The community needs to be fully aware of their local environment and the consequences it can have on their health. This new information will allow residents to make wiser decisions and seek the medical assistance they require."



Frank T. Fraley, SHARE Board President, and Yonel Letellier Sosa, SHARE Executive Director, are joined by Dr. Frank Flores, Plaza Del Sol staff and the Director, Helen Arteaga