

*Remarks for  
National Community Health Center Week  
August 19, 2002*

(recognize dignitaries – Larry McMillian,  
Harvey Johnson, Ronnie Shows, George Smith,  
Bennie Buckner, Sandy Beaty, Bennie  
Thompson, Dr. James Anderson)

It is great to be here this morning to help  
celebrate National Community Health Center  
Week, and to dedicate this building in honor of  
one of America's great leaders in the growth of  
these centers.

I want to thank the National Association of Community Health Centers for their work in promoting these vital resources in our state and country, and Pfizer for their investments in time, product and resources, to help meet the needs of our citizens.

I believe the measure of our society is found in the way we treat our people – our children, our elderly, those who need any kind of help – and today’s dedication is another standard by which we will be measured.

Our commitment to the health of our communities is strong – that is evidenced by the crowd here, and it's also demonstrated by the history of community health centers, both in our state and in our nation.

The role of these centers cannot be overstated. Their mission to the people they serve is simple – to serve the health care needs of those who may not otherwise be able to afford it.

I'm proud that one of the oldest community health centers in the nation is found here in Mississippi in the Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center.

Through the vision of people like Dr. Aaron Shirley and Dr. James Anderson, whose name will grace this great new facility, people have been able to access quality health care – care they otherwise may not have been able to afford.

Dr. Anderson, the list of your contributions is long, and the impact of your work spreads far beyond the borders of our state. You have been a true pioneer in so many ways, and that is what we honor today.

It's been said that "without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community." The care we provide for each other, the care available at a community health center such as this one, the care demonstrated by a great man like Dr. James Anderson – that all makes for a strong community.

It's good to be here in this strong community today. Thank you.