

A World of Possibilities

PCCY Award Acceptance Speech for Anne Morrissey, COO AmeriHealth Caritas

April 9, 2014

Approximately 3 minutes

(To host) Thank you. (To all) Thank you!

Nothing in the world holds as much promise and potential as a child with her needs met. Even children who don't have everything they need are strong and courageous. They are full of hopes and vivid dreams -- creative fighters, trying to win in a world where everything around them seems bigger and more powerful. For this second group of kids, there are organizations like PCCY -- stepping in to battle on their behalf.

The hallmark of a vital community organization is not that it talks about social change, but that it achieves it. For more than 30 years -- through advocacy and education -- PCCY has improved the lives of thousands of young people. It has improved their chances for success and opened a world of possibilities.

PCCY has provided kids with free vision care and glasses. They've offered free dental care and gotten them access to high-quality pre-k classes -- all while fighting for fair funding of public schools.

This history of using one hand to protect our kids while the other applies pressure to legislators is what sets PCCY apart. It's what makes them a true champion for our children – having the foresight to see potential where others might only see hopelessness – remembering those who should never be forgotten or looked over.

That's why I'm such a proud supporter – and why I'm happy to see all of you here tonight.

Because it means we're bound by the same goal: ensuring the education and good health of our kids. And we want to make sure those things remain a priority for the people who make decisions that affect our children.

In my role as President and Chief Operating Officer at AmeriHealth Caritas, I work to ensure nearly five million people have access to quality health care. A great number of these folks are right in our region, right in our back yard. And 50% of them are children who live in poverty.

I do this day in and day out because I believe that health is wealth, and there is enough to go around. It's not enough for *some* children to have access. It's not okay for a child's zip code to determine his care – for his family's financial situation to dictate his education – or his potential. I believe we are all connected and *all* children matter to me even if they aren't mine.

Creating safe and healthy places for children is one of the best parts of my job. And I know that collectively, the associates at AmeriHealth Caritas have a heart the size of a mountain --

generosity deeper than canyons. We all go to work every day with a mission to help people get care, stay well and build healthy communities.

So if there is one message that echoes in your mind days after I speak, let it be that we have the power to turn the dreams of a child into reality. We have the capability to help them go beyond where they are and have more than they've ever dreamed of.

Each one of us is here because we believe *every* child is born with a world of possibilities. So let's continue to stay involved, support and spread the word PCCY. Let's continue to educate and advocate for our most valuable citizens, our children. After all, they are our future.

Thank you for this wonderful honor, and for being dedicated to fighting for the rights of our children!