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Contact: Kathryn M. Franklin, Ph.D.
Dir. of Development & Public Affairs
WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care
401-285-5153
kfranklin@welloneri.org

WELLONE WELCOMES 2 NEW PROVIDERS TO NORTH KINGSTOWN

Addition of Pediatrician and Family Nurse Practitioner strengthens available care for every age

PASCOAG, RI – WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care (formerly Northwest Community Health Care and Bayside Family Healthcare) welcomes Andrea Vali, MD, F.A.A.P. and Virginia Pierce, FNP to its North Kingstown location at 308 Callahan Road.

Dr. Vali brings 35 years of experience to the North Kingstown team. Board Certified in Pediatrics with a special interest in Pediatric Nutrition and Breast Feeding as well as Pediatric Asthma and Infectious diseases in children, Dr. Vali performed her Internship/Residency at Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center in Bronx, NY and has held medical licenses in New York and Florida.

Dr. Vali previously worked as a Pediatrician at the Pediatric Associates in Lauderdale Lakes, FL, The Institute of Family Health in Kingston, NY, and The Children's Medical Group in Poughkeepsie, NY. In addition, she was affiliated both as a Staff Pediatrician and a Clinical Instructor at several New York-area hospitals. She is also fluent in both Spanish and Hungarian.

Virginia Pierce, FNP, a family nurse practitioner, returns to WellOne after having completed her student rotation there in 2008. Board Certified to provide primary care for patients of all ages, she shares a passion for and extensive expertise in caring for the elderly and their families. Ms. Pierce graduated from Rhode Island College with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Minor in Gerontology, and the University of Rhode Island with a Master of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner. Her Major Paper was titled, "Hyperphosphatemia Secondary to Fleet Enema Administration in the Elderly."

Ms. Pierce's previous experience includes treating geriatric patients in both the office and nursing home setting as well as managing medication for chronically ill adults. She gained clinical experience at several Rhode Island-area hospitals and private health centers. Her work history includes Nurse Practitioner, Medicine and Long-Term Care Associates in Cranston and Registered Nurse, Roger Williams Medical Center in Providence.

"Dr. Vali and Ms. Pierce are welcome additions to our already outstanding team and will provide the needed resources to respond to the escalating demand for our services by patients of all ages", stated WellOne President and CEO, Peter Bancroft.

Dr. Vali and Ms. Pierce join WellOne's other North Kingstown primary care providers, Drs. Susan Taft, Jessica Manyan, and Sara Nugent. Appointments with any of the medical practitioners may be made by calling (401) 295-9706 Monday – Friday, 8:30AM – 5:00PM. Dental and Behavioral Health appointments are also available by contacting this number.

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About WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care

Established in 1909, WellOne is the oldest nonprofit community health center in Rhode Island, was the first rural health clinic in the nation, and historically has served as a pioneer in public health initiatives including its groundbreaking immunization and chronic disease management programs as well as a commitment to oral health care that dates back to the establishment of dental clinics in the 1920s.

WellOne's mission is to provide high quality primary medical and dental care to the residents of the communities that it serves. WellOne operates sites in Pascoag, Foster and North Kingstown serving more than 13,000 patients and treating residents from every city/town in the state but Little Compton. In addition to primary medical and dental care, the organization provides behavioral health, mammography and bone density scanning services. The organization offers services on a sliding fee scale to qualifying uninsured patients and operates a discount pharmacy program in collaboration with CVS.

The North Kingstown center was established in 1978 as a result of the meeting of an independent group of social workers in conjunction with the North Kingstown Human Resources Commission to discuss the need for a regional health center to provide low-cost healthcare for the medically underserved. Originally known as "The North Kingstown Regional Health Center" the organization moved to its present location on Callahan road in 1988 and re-christened itself as "Bayside Family Healthcare, Inc." to reflect its broader service area and location near Narragansett Bay. In 2007, Bayside merged with Northwest Community Health Care to form WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care, which serves over 13,000 patients annually throughout Rhode Island.