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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **New Optometry Clinic to Serve San Francisco's LatinX, Immigrant and low-income Families**

(SAN FRANCISCO) – With the purpose of improving the quality of life of its patients, Mission Neighborhood Health Center (MNHC) is opening a new Optometry Clinic in the Mission District, to serve Latinx and immigrant families and community members.

"We know how important vision services are for the overall health and wellbeing of a person," says Brenda Storey, MNHC's Executive Director. "These services had closed in part due to COVID19, we decided to acquire the optometry service and are once again accessible to the community."

Optometry services are needed for individuals of all ages, ranging from children to the elderly. Early childhood eye exams are essential to ensure normal vision development and confirm that there are no vision problems that might affect school performance. Uncorrected refractive error can affect those of all ages and restrict educational and employment opportunities. As people get older, they are at higher risk of developing various conditions as well.

"We will be screening for any sign of glaucoma, macular degeneration, or changes to the eyes due to systemic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and HIV," says Dr. Janet Lee, who oversees the Optometry Clinic.

Optometrists play an important role in patients' vision and health. They can detect, diagnose, and treat diseases and disorders related to the visual system and the eyes.

The new Optometry Clinic is located at 240 Shotwell Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, in San Francisco. The office will provide both vision and medical services including glasses prescriptions, contact lens prescriptions and fittings, retinal screenings, as well as diagnosis and treatment of ocular conditions. With a retinal camera, OCT, and visual field on site, we will be able to perform glaucoma evaluations, follow those with diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration, as well as individuals with other conditions.

*On Friday, November 19, at 10:00 am, patients and community members will gather for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to formally open the site. California Senator Scott Wiener will be present. Media coverage is welcomed.*

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