

THE PULSE— Hope Community Health Center News

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A Promising Future of Hope

The Lord said to Jeremiah the prophet, “I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to ham you, plans to give you hope and a future.” These words have encouraged our clients as they face ongoing struggles. These words point to God’s care and His promise of a future with hope.

God allowed Hope Community Health Center to exist to show and tell people about His care for them. In 2008 HCHC completed medical care for 640 patients. 28 patients were diagnosed with diabetes and 26 with hypertension. HCHC com-

pleted 575 laboratories for 297 patients. During 2008, HCHC helped 6 diabetics stabilize their illness, vaccinated 31 people, and ran 4 pregnancy tests. HCHC treated over 4 times as many people as in 2007!

Of the 640 patients, 261 met with the chaplain team. 185 people prayed with the chaplains. 111 presentations of the good news of Jesus Christ were completed and 36 people had interest in spiritual follow-up. HCHC helped 21 people look for jobs, and gave 33 people food bank referrals. 26 people were given AHCCCS health

insurance applications, and 25 people signed a 3 month contract with HCHC for ongoing social service help.

HCHC volunteers gave over 1,350 hours of service at the clinic. Four volunteers each gave over 200 hours of service during the year! Wow!

One client summed up our hope that God would use our ministry. She said, “continue to spread your love for the good of others in our situations, and for the good of humanity.” God has a future for Hope.

Dr. Ann Engel Honored

In May 2009 Dr. Ann Engel was listed as an outstanding Family Practice physician by her medical peers in Phoenix as reported by Best Doctors. Best Doctors is an independent impartial organization that polls physicians who they would prefer to have their family members see when needing medical treatment. This honor identifies that other physicians believe Dr Engel at HCHC is one of the most skilled in her field. Only 5% of all doctors in the United States are ever included on this list! Congratulations, Dr. Engel!

Health Fair of Hope

On April 25, 2009, HCHC completed a Health Fair of Hope. The health fair focused on caring for the many needs of the uninsured. HCHC provided breast exam screenings for its partner, Chandler Regional Medical Center (CRMC), which was a Susan G. Komen breast cancer treatment grant recipient. If women were identified as needing a mammogram and fit certain economic qualifications, then CRMC, through the Komen grant, would pay for the mammogram and provide subsequent treat-



HCHC volunteer nurse, Pat Dressendorfer, takes the blood pressure of one of the fair’s patrons.

ment. Healthcare Connect, which is a group that provides low cost access to medical specialists for people 100% below poverty level and who cannot obtain health insurance, determined

if the women financially qualified for the free mammograms. Healthcare Connect received 28 applications that day for their services. The fair also had information on how to obtain health insurance for those who did not qualify for Healthcare Connect or Arizona’s Medicaid programs. HealthMarkets Insurance hosted a table to explain other low cost medical insurance options for clients. Breast screenings were not the only screenings going on at the fair, HCHC completed

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Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

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blood pressure readings for fair goers. Beltone Hearing Clinic provided 8 free hearing tests for fair patrons. Plus, the Phoenix Lion's Club provided eye examination machines for free eye evaluations.



Volunteers from Bethany Community Church used donated machines from the Lion's Club to screen people's vision

There were a variety of other services that the Health Fair of Hope provided. There was information about discount dental care and Anasazi Family Dental hosted a table to answer questions. St. Matthew's Food Bank handed out information about obtaining low cost food boxes. Information regarding counseling resources on sliding fee scales, diabetes education, and discount pharmacy programs were also available.

Fair patrons enjoyed winning the free door prizes the most. HCHC is thankful for



Volunteers helped people register to win door prizes at the health fair. 16 businesses donated the prizes that were given to fair patrons.

the 16 businesses near the clinic that donated items or services for the health fair. It was wonderful for the patrons and a great day to showcase HCHC's loving care for the community.

Breathing Easier—An HCHC Success

An eight year old boy was unable to sleep through nights due to breathing difficulties. The mother stayed up with the boy during the night to make certain he could breathe. Both the boy and his mother were exhausted. The lack of sleep effected the boy's school work and the mother's productivity. Daily the boy would stop playing at school due to shortness of breath and take his emergency inhaler. He was taking his emergency inhaler many times a day just to breathe. When the boy's uninsured

family came to Hope Community Health Center the boy was gasping for air. The doctor aggressively addressed the boy's asthma by stabilizing him with an emergency nebulizer treatment and prescribing for the child a long acting preventative medicine that the clinic provided for no cost. Because of the nebulizer treatment the child did not have to go to the hospital emergency room. Because of the severity of the boy's asthma the family returned to the clinic to follow-up in two weeks. The mother happily

reported that since the boy started the long acting preventative medicine, the entire family was sleeping through the night for the first time in many months. With the boy's asthma controlled the boy is completing his school work, and is playing at school without needing to stop and take his emergency inhaler. The boy has a normal life again and he and his family can rest a bit easier without the fear of knowing if the boy's next breath will even come.

On Your Knees—HCHC Prayer Guide

- > Funding— 500 couples to send us their \$400 AZ Working Poor Tax Credit. This tax credit is in addition to school tax credits! HCHC is fully booked into September 2009 and needs funds to expand hours and begin to pay staff.
- > Pray that the HCHC board of directors can add marketing and legal experts.
- > Pray for more bilingual volunteers and medical doctors, to help serve in the clinic.
- > Pray for the families that have been affected by job losses.
- > Pray for our patients and donors that are struggling to make ends meet in this difficult economy.
- > Pray for our world that is in great turmoil.
- > Pray for protection for our volunteers.