**HEALTH MONTH CALENDAR**

**May:** Oral Health Month

**June:** Men’s Health Month & Health Fair

**July:** Sexual Health Month

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**Donate Now/ Volunteer Today**

Every now and again, one simple act of generosity can have a ripple effect that goes well beyond what we might ever have imagined. This is the everyday opportunity that comes with supporting CommunityHealth.

Learn about Giving and Volunteer opportunities at www.communityhealth.org

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**FIRST QUARTER SNAPSHOT:**

- **6,731** patient visits
- **441** new patients served
- **823** health education encounters

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**Our Mission**

CommunityHealth is the leader in delivering comprehensive, high-quality, patient-centered health care at no cost to low-income, uninsured individuals in need of a medical home.

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**CommunityHealth: “Celebration of Care”**

Joined by nearly 400 donors, partners, volunteers, friends and leaders in the health care community, CommunityHealth hosted its 20th Anniversary Gala at Navy Pier’s Grand Ballroom on Saturday, April 20th. Co-Chaired by CommunityHealth board members Cheryl Lulias and Jim Durkin and supported by a volunteer Gala Committee, the event was record-breaking -- raising over $460,000 in the name of the CommunityHealth mission.

In addition to generous corporate and table sponsors, the Gala helped raise funds through a silent and live auction, raffles, and outright donations that will support CommunityHealth’s Lederman Family Health Center in West Town and its satellite in Englewood. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois was the Gala’s Mission Sponsor and Honorary Chair. The Joseph & Bessie Feinberg Foundation, the University of Chicago Medicine, Baxter and Lundbeck were the evening’s other top sponsors.

“Each year we take time to celebrate the impact of our work and honor those partners, donors and volunteers who are dedicated to the delivery of high-quality care to the most vulnerable among us,” said CommunityHealth Executive Director Judith Haasis. The evening paid special tribute to three esteemed honorees who have been instrumental in CommunityHealth’s ability to make a true impact in the lives of the uninsured patients we serve:

**Presence Saint Joseph Hospital – Chicago: Cornerstone Award**

For its influential role in establishing CommunityHealth as a leader in care for the uninsured and for its longstanding commitment to advancing the CommunityHealth mission.

**The University of Chicago Medicine: Visionary Award**

For its extraordinary contributions to CommunityHealth and its commitment to bringing high quality, comprehensive health care to Chicago’s most underserved south side communities.

**Babs Waldman, MD, FACP: Serafino Award**

For her remarkable and inspired leadership and commitment to the CommunityHealth mission and unwavering dedication to delivering high-quality health care to those in need.

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We warmly thank all of the wonderful supporters of this outstanding event.

(L to R): Dr. Arnold L. Widen, CommunityHealth Immediate Past President; Dr. Babs Waldman, Serafino Honoree; Judith Haasis, CommunityHealth Executive Director; Sharon O’Keefe, President, The University of Chicago Medicine; Dr. Roberta Luskin-Hawk, CEO, Presence Saint Joseph Hospital; Joseph B. O’Malley, CommunityHealth Board President

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To view more photos of this lively evening, please visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/communityhealthchicago
In the Spotlight: Claudia Austin, NP

In February, CommunityHealth said a fond farewell to one of our favorite volunteers, Claudia Austin, NP. Claudia has been a dedicated volunteer at CommunityHealth since our beginning – when we were just a small, makeshift clinic. While we wish her the very best in retirement, she will be truly missed in her clinic role by staff, volunteers, patients and friends. Individuals like Claudia remind us of how one person can make a difference and we are deeply grateful!

Patient Profile: Shirley Johns

Three years ago, Shirley Johns needed some help. The stay-at-home grandmother, who in the past had worked two jobs to make ends meet, was living without a ‘medical home.’ Furthermore, an unfortunate and costly trip to the emergency room six years ago led to a diagnosis of diabetes. Without proper medication or a doctor she could trust, Shirley was lost. “I had seen different doctors for a while,” she said. “CommunityHealth changed my life.”

Shirley says that she was “greeted with open arms” after registering to become a patient with our intake team led by Intake Coordinator Virginia Gallegos. Since coming to CommunityHealth, “everything is better than before.” She has lost 60 pounds and her lifestyle has changed dramatically. Working with volunteer provider Dr. Babs Waldman and her health care team, Shirley’s condition is now well-managed with medications and diet. Shirley has also participated in CommunityHealth’s diabetes education and exercise courses. “I don’t feel weak or tired or rundown anymore,” she says -- which is important since she helps to support her two sons and three young granddaughters.

Shirley hopes that other patients at CommunityHealth find their experience just as healing. “The providers and volunteers at CommunityHealth truly support the mission. The doctors out there are doing their jobs, but it is the patient’s job to listen,” says Shirley. “Everything is hard work, but it is a great thing when you cross the finish line; when you succeed, you win!”

CommunityHealth was recently featured in an article in Chicago Health magazine’s Winter 2013 issue: “Going Above and Beyond: Shining the Spotlight on Chicago’s Charitable Organizations.”
See full article link at www.communityhealth.org/news-about-us

Weight of the Nation

In April 2013, CommunityHealth’s health education team hosted two screenings of HBO’s prolific documentary series The Weight of the Nation for patients and community members. “Bringing together the nation’s leading research institutions, The Weight of the Nation is a presentation of HBO and the Institute of Medicine (IOM), in association with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and in partnership with the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and Kaiser Permanente. The centerpiece of this campaign is a four-part documentary series, each featuring case studies, interviews with our nation’s leading experts, and individuals and their families struggling with obesity.” (www.hbo.com/weightofthenation)

CommunityHealth focused on the fourth part of the series entitled “Challenges,” which “examines the major driving forces causing the obesity epidemic, including agriculture, economics, evolutionary biology, food marketing, racial and socioeconomic disparities, physical inactivity, American food culture, and the strong influence of the food and beverage industry.” Nearly 50 individuals attended the screenings (held in both English and Spanish) at our Lederman Family Health Center in West Town and our Englewood satellite.

“I don’t feel weak or tired or rundown anymore.”

“More than half of our patients, many of whom are minorities, are living with chronic conditions like obesity and diabetes and are struggling to make ends meet,” said Emily Hendel MS, CNP, director of nursing services, at CommunityHealth. “As their ‘medical home,’ it is critical that we provide them with the education and resources that they need so that they can truly understand the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle – including how to make smart meal and nutrition choices on a budget. I think Weight of the Nation is such an important and eye-opening documentary for all us, but especially for the vulnerable patients and families we serve.”