Executive Director Judith Haasis Appointed to New Volunteer Leadership Roles

CommunityHealth is pleased to announce two new volunteer leadership positions for Executive Director Judy Haasis. In May she was elected Chair of the South Side Health Care Collaborative (SSHC) and in June was named Vice Chair of the Illinois Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (IAFCC).

Over the last nine years, Judy has built a reputation as a true thought leader in the health care sector through her service on the Board of the National Association of Free Clinics, her role in the launch of the IAFCC, and her engagement with the SSHC. “The South Side Healthcare Collaborative could not be more thrilled to have Judy at the helm of our Board,” says Kimberly Hobson, Director of SSHC. “Her experience and talents will be instrumental in guiding a network of community-based health centers, free clinics and local hospitals in our efforts to create strong health care relationships between residents and providers across the South Side.”

As Vice Chair of the IAFCC, Judy is working with colleagues across the state’s free clinic sector to advance the IAFCC vision to promote the elimination of health disparities among uninsured and underserved populations in Illinois. “Combined with CommunityHealth’s extraordinary mission and model of service – high-quality care provided by volunteers and supported by partnerships and philanthropy -- it is because of the leadership and dedication of Judy that CommunityHealth has emerged as an award-winning free clinic nationwide,” says Tina Sacks, Executive Director of the IAFCC.

CommunityHealth Launches Inaugural Online Fundraising Campaign

The power of the internet and the ever-growing social networking scene is no secret to anyone these days. More than ever before, passionate advocates and volunteers around the globe are leveraging this power to benefit the causes that are important to them. Online fundraising has been the largest growing source of critical revenue for non-profits for the last several years and CommunityHealth is entering the scene!

We are excited to share and invite our passionate volunteers and advocates to help us promote the incredible work being done at CommunityHealth and raise the critical funds we need to ensure our patients receive the high quality and comprehensive health care they deserve.

Our inaugural goal is $25,000 which will help to defray the costs CommunityHealth incurs from purchasing stock medications, medical supplies and patient health education materials vital to the positive health outcomes of our patients.

Participation is easy, secure and rewarding! Anyone can participate and you may rally a team together or participate as an individual. Either way, you will be helping to spread the word about the impact CommunityHealth makes in the Chicago area.

More information to come – please visit our web site often for updates and official launch date!
Patients Take Ownership of their Health through Education Classes

CommunityHealth strongly believes in a holistic approach to care for the patients we serve. To that end, our diabetes education and cooking-based nutrition courses are often attended to full capacity and our exercise, fitness and health seminars and workshops are always well attended. Patients find a real sense of empowerment and community through these offerings.

Activities at the West Town site also continue to thrive. For instance, our recent Men’s Health Day was a success and included primary care exams, STD testing, a cooking demonstration and snacks, raffles and give-a-ways. This event was hosted by our health education team with volunteer support.

Finally, we are proud to highlight the annual 5k Run/Walk Patient Training course. Facilitated by staff member Sophia Sanchez, this 10-week course is goal oriented with routes staring at CommunityHealth and increasing in distance each week. The course is open to patients and community and family members.

The ultimate goal will be completing the American Health Association (AHA)’s annual Heart Walk on September 27 in Grant Park.

Telemedicine at CommunityHealth

“Telemedicine is one of the newer modalities for delivering care to underserved communities, and is especially well suited to the so-called cognitive specialties,” says CommunityHealth volunteer neurologist Dr. Kenneth Vatz.

Telemedicine was recently introduced at CommunityHealth with teleneurology -- a component of our on-site neurology specialty service -- by Dr. Vatz with the support of Director of Nursing Services Emily Hendel. Trial clinical encounters were initiated in 2012 with a "pilot" program launched in 2013 under the auspices of Albert Schweitzer Fellow Annabella Vidal-Ruiz, a student at the UIC College of Nursing.

Teleneurology appointments are scheduled nearly every Friday with two to three patients benefiting from appointments. Dr. Vatz communicates remotely via internet video while Annabella performs a directed neurologic examination for the patient on site. Common referrals for teleneurology include dizziness, headaches, memory problems and nerve and spine disorders. Annabella facilitates each "visit" and the success of this program will serve as a foundation for future opportunities in telemedicine. Furthermore, it is a true example of both the dedication of our volunteers and CommunityHealth’s commitment to innovation in care.
Donate Now, Volunteer Today!

Did you know ninety-eight cents of every dollar given to CommunityHealth goes directly to patient care? From online giving to stock donations, generous donors can contribute to our mission in a variety of ways. If you are taking IRA distributions, there are incentives currently in place to making charitable contributions - please contact your financial advisor or planner for more information. Visit www.communityhealth.org/ways-to-give to learn more.

Do you know a retired physician who is looking to stay active in the community? Perhaps you speak Spanish or Polish and are looking for a way to make a meaningful difference in your spare time? Visit www.communityhealth.org/why-volunteer to learn about our myriad of volunteer opportunities.

One simple act of generosity can have a ripple effect. This is the everyday opportunity that comes with supporting CommunityHealth.

CommunityHealth is looking to CONNECT WITH YOU!

LOG ON: www.communityhealth.org
LIKE US: www.facebook.com/communityhealthchicago
SUBSCRIBE: www.youtube.com/CommHealthChi

In the Spotlight: Volunteer and Staff Recognition

CommunityHealth congratulates former Clinic Coordinator Joanna Kasparek and former Health Education Coordinator Anna Ruman who will both be attending medical school this fall. While both left their positions this summer for a much deserved break before the school year begins, Joanna will be staying in Chicago -- attending the UIC College of Medicine -- and Anna will be headed east to attend Harvard Medical School. We are so proud of both of these talented individuals!

CommunityHealth would also like to recognize volunteer provider Dr. Erica Marsh, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Northwestern, as one of two 2013 recipients of the Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation's Physician Clinical Excellence Award in Community Service.

Finally, we are pleased to welcome Will Hinde, Director and Healthcare Insurance (Payer) Practice Lead, West Monroe Partners; Brad Mantell, Vice President Client Management, Aetna; and Richard Sewell, Associate Dean, Community and Public Health Practice, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) School of Public Health, as the newest members of our Board of Directors.

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

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