Welcome to HealthLinks, the quarterly newsletter of CommunityHealth! We are excited to bring back this publication and keep in touch with you – our most dedicated donors, funders, partners and volunteers. You can count on this piece to keep you in the know with the latest happenings with volunteers, patient services, clinic updates, fundraising and more. We’ll share with you advancements we are making in our mission to provide high quality, comprehensive healthcare to the uninsured in the Chicago community.

While we have much to celebrate about this past year, we know that this year holds even more promise as 2013 marks the 20th Anniversary of CommunityHealth! Since 1993, we have been helping those in need – playing a vital role in our community while providing high quality, comprehensive healthcare to the uninsured in the Chicago area. You have made an indelible mark on this accomplishment with your support along the way and we look forward to celebrating with you throughout the year. Our signature celebration will be the 20th Anniversary Gala on April 20th in the Grand Ballroom of Navy Pier. Please save the date and we’ll see you there!

You Made It Possible: Year in Review

In 2012, CommunityHealth had many successes thanks to the support of our donors, volunteers and partners. Among the most significant accomplishments was our successful conversion to Electronic Medical Records (EMR). EMR is providing CommunityHealth with the ability to take our expanding services and partnerships to new levels of quality, safety and accountability. Additional highlights:

- CommunityHealth is now a “medical home” to well over 10,000 patients thanks to the support of 1,400 volunteers – of whom nearly 500 are providers (physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, dentists). Combined site visits in 2012 totaled 25,500. Note: The Englewood site now serves 1,000+ patients.
- Saint Joseph Hospital added two new residency clinics to its continuity rotation for a total of nine clinics at the Lederman Family Health Center in West Town.
- We added a GI specialty clinic on-site at Englewood.
- We hosted several successful community health fair events including a “Pink Beyond October” Breast Health Event, “Men’s” and “Women’s” Health Days and “Diabetes Day.”
- The University of Chicago Medical Center began providing select diagnostic services for our Englewood patients.
- CommunityHealth forged a new partnership with Cook County Health & Hospitals System as part of an initiative to expand dental services to low-income, uninsured residents of Cook County. Grant funds are available through this partnership and will allow CommunityHealth to renovate the dental operatories at our Englewood site.
- We established a new partnership with The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Dentistry. Students from this program (supervised by precepting dentists) now provide care at our West Town site two Saturdays a month.
- A new initiative was introduced as part of our MedAccess Chicago pharmacy: Medication Therapy Management (MTM). This program is centered around 1:1 pharmacist/patient appointments (with staff pharmacists or pharmacy residents) and is designed to assess the impact of these appointments on medication adherence rates/improved clinical health outcomes (particularly for patients with chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension).
In the Spotlight: Staff and Volunteer Recognition

CommunityHealth is truly an example of how one mission can move many to make a difference. More than 1,400 volunteers and 40 staff bring the CommunityHealth mission to life each day. While we cannot list each important name here, we would like to give special recognition to the following volunteers for their commitment and dedication to the patients we are privileged to serve.

Volunteers of the Year*

Attendings of the Year
Englewood: Dr. James Woodruff and Dr. Amber Pincavage  
(The University of Chicago Medicine)

Attending of the Year
West Town: Dr. Rohini Mendonca  
(Saint Joseph Hospital)

Primary Care Provider of the Year
Suzanne Flood, NP

Specialists of the Year
West Town: Dr. Ted Winslow (Cardiology) and Dr. Ron Lorenzini (Gynecology)

Specialist of the Year
Englewood: Dr. Erica Marsh  
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Gynecology)

Group Specialty of the Year
Rush University Medical Center’s Musculoskeletal Department  
(Attendings: Dr. Gerard Dysico and Dr. Theresa McCarthy)

Resident Physician of the Year
Dr. Antonio Alvarado  
(Northwestern Memorial Hospital)

Dentist of the Year
Dr. Jack Liu

Dental Volunteer of the Year
Josh Oleari

Nurse of the Year
Carol Michalski, RN

Medical Student of the Year
Michelle Leahy  
(Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine)

Pharmacist of the Year
Englewood: Yolanda Hardy, PharmD  
(Chicago State University College of Pharmacy)

Pharmacist of the Year
West Town: Jesus Rojo, PharmD

Pharmacy Volunteer of the Year
Steve Tran

Health Education
Volunteer of the Year
Dave Butt

Ilene Goodman Award
Englewood: Rachael Marszewski

Ilene Goodman Award
West Town: Nima Shahlapour

Volunteers of the Month
(October-December 2012)

October
Clinic Volunteer – Victor Maslon  
(West Town – Polish Interpreter)
Provider – Dr. Phyllis Amabile  
(Independent Psychiatrist – West Town)

November
Clinic Volunteer – Roman Sobus  
(West Town – Polish Interpreter)
Provider – Dr. Matilde Rios  
(West Town – Independent Primary Care)

December
Clinic Volunteer – Angelica Rusilowski  
(West Town – Polish Interpreter)
Provider – Dr. Dianne Collins  
(Englewood – Independent Primary Care)

Staff Member of the Month
(October-December 2012)

October: Nicole Potempa, Staff RN
November: Mariela Urena, Patient Care Associate
December: Megan Doerr, Director of Clinic Operations

*Recognized at our December 7 Volunteer Holiday Party

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Erica Marsh, one of our dedicated volunteer providers, who was honored at Northwestern Memorial Hospital’s Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Awards Program as one of three recipients of the 2013 Humanitarian Award.
Patient Profile: Wendy Kaiser

Wendy Kaiser has been a patient at CommunityHealth for more than 8 years. She recently shared what she values most about the clinic. “The care at CommunityHealth is personal, it’s multifaceted, and it’s very supportive. It will meet you where your personal needs are.” Ms. Kaiser specifically appreciates the warm, personal interactions with everyone at the clinic – that the providers greet patients, call them by name, and even provide their email addresses or phone numbers. “You feel like you’re not just an ‘asthma’ or an ‘arthritis,’ but a person with needs, and they care.” She summarizes it as an experience offering dignity of care.

For Ms. Kaiser, CommunityHealth is her medical home. “You have a doctor who follows you. If you need a specialist, they make sure you’re hooked up with a specialist, and they work together for your good health.”

The pharmacists know her by name when she has her regular prescriptions refilled. She also appreciates that CommunityHealth helps meet all her medical needs. “You can exercise here, and talk to people about your troubles,” she says.

If CommunityHealth didn’t exist, Ms. Kaiser says, she would be in “a world of hurt” and would need to scramble to meet her medical needs – not just a doctor, but a pharmacy, lab, and referrals. “I don’t know what I would do,” she says. “I would probably go without a lot of care.”

You feel like you’re not just an ‘asthma’ or an ‘arthritis,’ but a person with needs, and they care.

Health Care Reform: What does it mean for CommunityHealth?

On June 28, 2012 the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” (ACA), also called Obamacare or Federal Health Care Reform, signed into law by President Obama in 2010.

- Effective 2014, millions of low-income individuals and families who are not currently eligible for Medicaid will be able to enroll thanks to the expanded eligibility guidelines provided under the ACA; and
- Millions of other low-moderate income households who may still not qualify for Medicaid will be able to purchase low-cost health insurance through “state insurance exchanges” that will offer options not currently available in the commercial marketplace.

However, we still have a long way to go before the vision of CommunityHealth where everyone has access to quality, affordable health care is fully realized -- as significant gaps in care will remain even after the ACA is fully implemented. Therefore, the free clinic sector will continue to play a vital role as the “safety net under the safety net” for low-income residents who are either (a) unable to secure the benefits of the ACA, or (b) transitioning in and out of coverage due to changes in their life circumstances.

For these individuals – an estimated 700,000 in Illinois alone – the need for free clinics like CommunityHealth will remain significant in 2014 and beyond. (Only 30% of these Illinoisans are expected to be undocumented.)

As we look to the future, CommunityHealth is committed to ensuring that our organization and model of service delivery adapts to the changing health care environment. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

In the meantime, however, we must not lose sight of today’s challenge as the crisis of the uninsured remains as urgent as ever. We thank you for your support and confidence.
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SAVE THE DATE
April 20, 2013
Navy Pier
CommunityHealth
20th Anniversary Gala:
“Celebration of Care”
www.communityhealth.org/events