

the Bridge

PROVIDENCE
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

www.providencechc.org

Welcome!



Dear Friends of Providence Community Health Centers:

I am often asked, "Who are The Providence Community Health Centers?" Although many people have heard of Allen Berry, Capital Hill, Central, Olneyville, or Fox Point Health Centers, few realize that these organizations are part of the Providence Community Health Center (PCHC) network.

For 35 years PCHC has served the needs of over 32,000 patients each year, many from some of the city's poorest neighborhoods. Our staff of over 240 professionals, many who have been with PCHC for over 20 years, work hard to meet the primary care needs of the residents of these communities.

In an effort to help you become more familiar with our wonderful organization, we welcome you to the first issue of The Bridge – the official newsletter of PCHC. The Bridge embodies our commitment to be your bridge to quality care and good health in Providence.

As the largest provider of primary health care in the City of Providence, PCHC is constantly undertaking new initiatives, serving new populations, and increasing our services. Every quarter The Bridge will update you on our activities, events, and news in and around our five health centers and other areas.

We welcome your feedback, and on behalf of the entire PCHC staff, we give our sincere thanks for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Merrill Thomas
CEO

PCHC Patients Can Now Pay Less for Prescription Drugs

Anthony Solomon of Anthony's Drug of Providence, and Chip Eckloff and Dave Bettencourt of Brooks Pharmacies are in partnership with PCHC to enable many patients to receive discount prescription drugs.

Congressman Honorable Patrick J. Kennedy speaking at the announcement of PCHC 340B Drug Pricing Program.

Dr. Stanley Hoyt Block Medical Director for PCHC, Steve Constantino, and Patrick J. Kennedy at 340B Press Conference.

On May 25, 2004 Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy (D-RI) and House Finance Chairman Steve Constantino joined PCHC, Brooks Pharmacy and Anthony's Drugs to announce a discount prescription drug program for all PCHC patients. Called the 340B Drug Pricing Program, it allows PCHC patients to receive large discounts on prescription drugs – regardless of their health insurance benefits. In most instances, drugs purchased through the 340B program are discounted between 30% and 50%.

"I am pleased to be here today to celebrate the new 340B drug program at PCHC," said Kennedy. "With prescription drug costs going through the roof, this program is more critical than ever. I've always said that healthcare shouldn't be a privilege, it should be a right reserved for every American. With this program, we inch closer toward that goal."

The PCHC 340B program is the first of its kind in Rhode Island that allows patients to utilize neighborhood pharmacies. PCHC has partnered with three Brooks Pharmacies and with Anthony Drug of Providence to offer the discount prescription drugs. To qualify for the discount program one must be a patient of one of PCHC's five health center facilities and be under the care of a PCHC doctor. As part of our commitment to provide the highest quality care to everyone in the Providence community, no one is excluded from becoming a PCHC patient.

Unlike other prescription drug discount programs that only serve as a clearinghouse that directs patients to potential savings, PCHC's program offers actual savings to its patients. "The rising cost of prescription drugs is creating a tremendous burden on all patients in our health care system," said Merrill Thomas, CEO of PCHC. "With the inception of our new program, we are alleviating the strain on our patients and enabling them to live healthier lives."



PCHC Receives Over \$90,000 in Grants for New Dental Health Program

We are pleased to announce that PCHC was recently awarded a \$70,000 grant to participate in the Rhode Island Oral Health Access Project, which is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. In addition, PCHC was one of four recipients to be awarded \$22,019 from the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern New England. The funding from these grants will be used to provide capital equipment for a new PCHC dental site on Broad Street in Providence. A full-time dentist and two dental students from Boston University's Goldman School of Dental Health will staff the clinic, scheduled to open in fall 2004. "The need for dental health services in Providence is tremendous," said PCHC CEO Merrill Thomas. "In the past, our patients have endured waiting lists and long lines for adequate dental care, leaving many children and families with little or no access to the services they need. With these grants, we'll be able to meet some of the demand for dental health care for the children of Providence, and continue to be the leading resource for community-based health care in Rhode Island."

The PCHC dental clinic will offer oral exams, fluoride treatments, sealants, dental cleanings, oral hygiene instruction, patient education, and dental repairs. Services will be available to all children who are patients of PCHC, regardless of their caretaker's ability to pay.



Highlight on Special Services

The PCHC Asthma and Allergy Clinic at Capital Hill

The statistics are overwhelming:

- Asthma is the number one chronic condition in children.
- Asthma is the third biggest cause of hospitalization in children under 15 and is the leading cause of school absence.
- More than 70% of the people with asthma also suffer from allergies.
- In RI between the years 1998-2002 over half (55%) of all hospitalizations for asthma were children residing in the core cities.
- Rhode Island's core cities have the highest child poverty rates and the highest rates of children without health insurance in the state.
- Asthma prevalence, morbidity, and mortality are all greater for inner-city minorities. Among African Americans, the prevalence was 38% higher than the rate in whites in 1992.
- Lower income families are often uninsured or underinsured resulting in their inability to afford medication to keep the disease under control.
- 9.4% of Rhode Island residents suffer from asthma, as compared to the national average of 7.2%.

And the list goes on and on. If you are one of the people in Rhode Island affected by this expensive and debilitating disease, there is little comfort in knowing you are not alone. You can, however, take comfort in knowing that PCHC's Asthma/Allergy Clinic at Capital Hill, which began operations 25 years ago, provides asthma screening, management, and treatment programs for individuals who, without our care, might be unable to lead a fully-active life.



Stanley Block, M.D. FAAP, Medical Director and Asthma/Allergy Specialist at PCHC, checks out a patient at the Asthma/Allergy clinic.

The Providence Community Health Centers are JCAHO Approved

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) evaluates and accredits nearly 16,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. An independent, not-for-profit organization, JCAHO is the nation's predominant standards-setting and accrediting body in health care.

Since 1951, JCAHO has developed state-of-the-art, professionally based standards and evaluated the compliance of health care organizations against these benchmarks. PCHC is proud to be JCAHO certified and have been since 1999. We received this prestigious certification in acknowledgement of the quality standards that every member, staff, and facility within the PCHC network strives to meet.



AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs that engage more than 50,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment. For the past 10 years, PCHC has been fortunate to have 12 AmeriCorps members join our staff to provide patient services and to learn about health care and the various career opportunities that are available. Working in PCHC facilities gives these young students first-hand experience of what it is like to work in a health environment and helps to shape their future careers.

AmeriCorps members provide valuable service on PCHC programs:

Perinatal Education Program – A program for teen mothers, first-time mothers, or non-U.S. women giving birth in this country for the first time.

Environmental Health Action Project – A program that teaches adults and children with asthma how to manage this disease and how to identify “triggers.”

Diabetes Case Management Program – These Saturday workshops empower chronic care diabetes patients to manage their own care, allowing them to learn how to lead a more empowered life.

Through PCHC, AmeriCorps members have also worked with the children of the Head Start Program of Providence as well as the Reach Out and Read Program.

Over 50% of the PCHC AmeriCorps alumni choose a career in health care after serving at our centers. Many go on to become physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, social workers, hospital administrators and midwives. To our AmeriCorps members, we say

“Thank you and good luck with your careers!”



PCHC Checks Up Athletes for Providence NFL Junior Player Development Camp

It was an all-star line up, including Mayor Cicilline; former New England Patriots pro Bowl staff linebacker, Andre Tippett; Merrill Thomas, PCHC CEO; and David Tapscott, MD in Pediatrics at PCHC, who gathered at Conley Stadium to announce the creation of Providence's NFL Junior Player Development Camp.

PCHC is partnering with the New England Patriots and Providence Parks and Recreation for the youth of our city, offering free physicals to children interested in taking part in the Camp. PCHC's Allen Berry Health Center provided the free check ups on Saturday, June 12.

“This camp will provide an unprecedented opportunity for our children to learn the importance of sports, teamwork and dedication through the NFL's programs,” said Mayor Cicilline. “These are important life skills that can have a significant impact on kid's lives.”

Support the Providence Community Health Centers!

PCHC provides prenatal, Ob/Gyn, pediatric, adolescent, adult medicine and specialty care services to over 32,000 residents at five health centers in the City of Providence. To provide these quality services and to continue to attract and retain our quality staff of over 200 doctors, nurses, clinicians and administrators, we need your support!

Please take a moment to support your community by making a tax-free donation to The Providence Community Health Centers. Your funds will go directly into providing such necessary services as asthma and diabetes treatment programs, cancer screenings, blood pressure screenings, and physical examinations for infants, adolescents and adults within the Providence community.

Make your tax-deductible check payable to: The Providence Community Health Centers, Inc.
Thank you for your generosity and support.

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PCHC LOCATIONS

ALLEN BERRY
 202 Prairie, Ave.
 Providence, RI 02905

CAPITOL HILL
 40 Candace St.
 Providence, RI 02908

CENTRAL
 239 Cranston St.
 Providence, RI 02907

FOX POINT
 650 Wickenden St.
 Providence, RI 02903

OLNEYVILLE
 100 Curtis St.
 Providence, RI 02909

WHITEMARSH STD CLINIC
 557 Broad Street
 Providence, RI 02907

Or visit us at providencechc.org

Providence CHC Fast Facts

How many health centers are a part of Providence Community Health Centers?

5 centers, STD Clinic, School Based Clinic, Adult Correctional Institute Clinic

How many patients use PCHC as their primary care?

30,292 patients

How many patients does PCHC have?

One in every six Providence residents

How many children are our patients?

One in every three Providence Public school children

How many patient visits did PCHC have last year?

125,000 visits

How many telephone calls came into PCHC centers?

1,000,000 calls per year