



Dear Friends of Providence  
Community Health Centers:

The Bridge is welcoming in the New Year with news of additional grants and awards for PCHC, a warm thank you for the generosity of our sponsors and attendees at our November Gala event, and an update on the new Fox Point construction plans.

In this issue of The Bridge, you'll find a rendering for the new 11,000 square-foot Fox Point facility, which will be located at 375 Allens Avenue. With plenty of free parking, easy accessibility via public transportation or our free van service, this new facility will offer state-of-the-art equipment and will provide prenatal care, adult medicine, pediatrics, lab services, and urgent care for our patients. We hope that you'll keep an eye on our progress as construction begins in the spring.

If you'd like more details, please contact us – and continue to look for updates in upcoming issues of The Bridge!

From everybody at PCHC, we wish you a healthy, happy and peaceful 2005.

Sincerely,

Merrill Thomas  
CEO

## Gala Fundraiser Creates a Night to Remember

PCHC wishes to extend a sincere "thank you" to our gala sponsors, contributors and attendees. Over 250 people attended the First Annual Fundraising Gala at the Biltmore Grand Ballroom this past November. Through the generous support of our sponsors, the event raised over \$84,000, which directly benefits the men, women and children within the PCHC network.

In addition to honoring special guest State



Special Guest State Representative Steve Costantino is honored by Merrill Thomas and Mary Jones for his efforts in obtaining grants for the PCHC Asthma Program.

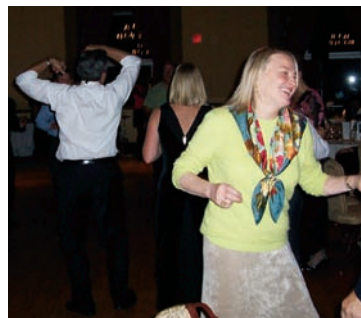
years, was given special thanks and recognition for her long service and ongoing support.

Save the date for 2005! Mark your calendars for our 2005 Gala, which will again be held at the Biltmore Grand Ballroom on November 4, 2005. You still have time to brush up on your dancing skills, plan your wardrobe, and rest up for the festivities!



Gala attendee Dale Klatzker places bid. The Silent Auction raised \$10,000 in contributions for the PCHC community.

Representative Steve Costantino, PCHC honored Mary Jones, chairperson of the PCHC Board of Directors and one of the original founding community leaders that helped start the Rhode Island Community Health Centers 35 years ago. Maria Costantino, who worked for PCHC as a pediatric health aid at the Capitol Hill Facility for 15



Gala attendees dance to the tunes of the Anita Jones Band at the beautiful Biltmore Grand Ballroom.

## PCHC Dental Clinic Has More to Smile About

PCHC wishes to extend its thanks to Delta Dental, Hasbro Charitable Trust, and the Ronald McDonald Health Charities who have contributed over \$80,000 in grants to the new Dental Clinic.

The clinic received \$50,000 from Delta Dental. Hasbro Charitable Trust, the philanthropic arm of toy maker Hasbro, Inc., awarded a \$10,000 grant to be used for equipment purchases and other capital improvements.



Merrill Thomas receives a check from Ronald McDonald and Edie Stevenson, executive director of Health Charities of Eastern New England, at Gillette Stadium to benefit the PCHC Dental Clinic.

In addition, Ronald McDonald caught up with PCHC CEO Merrill Thomas at Gillette Stadium to offer a check in the amount of \$22,019 to help fund the clinic.

Dr. Blanco has begun screenings of children and high-risk prenatal women at each of the PCHC health centers. To schedule a time for your dental screening, please call 401-444-0400 and ask for the dental screening schedule.

## PCHC Staff Reach Deep

If you've ever been in contact with a PCHC staff member, you know that they reach deep into their hearts to provide the best care possible. This year, over 73% of PCHC staff also reached into their pockets during the Annual Staff Appeal, contributing \$23,845 to various programs underway at PCHC. In addition, every member of the PCHC board and senior staff donated generously to PCHC.

PCHC thanks contributors for their support and generosity.

## PCHC Mission Statement

"Provide neighborhood-based, high quality and accessible primary medical care to improve the health status of the residents of Providence and surrounding communities, regardless of their ability to pay."

### A Special Thank You to Our Gala Event Sponsors:

Aharonian & Associates, Inc.	J.J. Cardosi, Inc.
Alexander, Aronson, Finning & Co. P.C.	Lifespan
AMICA	Medical Systems, Inc.
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## Highlight on Special Services

### PCHC Diabetes Screening and Care

More than one in every five patients admitted to major hospitals in Rhode Island has diabetes. The number is increasing in adults and, alarmingly, at an especially rapid rate in children. Changes in diet and exercise habits, in addition to widely distributed genetic risks, have resulted in an epidemic increase in diabetes.

An estimated 7.3% of Americans currently have diabetes (7.4% of Rhode Islanders). More than one in every seven individuals over the age of 60 is affected. An equal number of people have impaired glucose tolerance, which often progresses to diabetes. Diabetes can lead to debilitating complications including blindness, renal failure, cardiovascular disease, mobility impairment, and lower extremity amputation. Preventive care such as glycemic control and regular foot and eye examinations are recommended because of their efficacy in reducing diabetes-related complications.

With these alarming statistics as a backdrop, PCHC is pleased to announce that it has received a \$40,000 Expansion Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The grant will allow PCHC to expand its Chronic Care Model for diabetes at three of our facilities: Fox Point, Allen Berry and Olneyville.

The Chronic Care Model is an initiative of the Bureau of Primary Care Health Centers to demonstrate a better way to provide care for chronic diseases, including diabetes and asthma. The Model teaches patients how to set goals in a self-managed program while under the care of a provider. At PCHC, we provide this education and multi-disciplinary care through the AmeriCorps Program staff (see The Bridge, Issue 1).

**If you would like more information on diabetes, diabetes screening, or the PCHC Chronic Care Model, please call 401-444-0400 ext. 3128.**

### Champlin Foundation Supports New Fox Point Facility

PCHC wishes to thank the Champlin Foundation, which recently awarded a \$250,000 grant towards the development of the new Fox Point Facility at 375 Allens Avenue. The Champlin Foundation funds tax-exempt organizations within Rhode Island that will have the greatest impact on the broadest segment of the population. PCHC is proud to have qualified for and received this grant, which will be used to construct the new facility.



With demolition and clearing well underway, the new facility has reached its next milestone: approved site and floor plans from the City of Providence. Construction of the 11,000 square-foot facility will begin in early spring, with a grand opening in the fall of 2005.

PCHC wishes to thank all of the staff, partners, and city representatives who continue to help bring our new facility to life, and for the generosity of the Champlin Foundation.



### 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-deductible donation to The Providence Community Health Centers. Your funds will go directly to 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.**

### PCHC Receives Top Honors for WIC Program

At the Annual Meeting of the RI State WIC Program on December 1, 2004, PCHC received several awards for its employees and facilities. WIC is the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children. Funded by the USDA and overseen by the Department of Health in RI, the program safeguards the health of low-income women, infants and children up to age five by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care service providers.



PCHC has the largest WIC program in Rhode Island, serving over 6,800 participants. Several of PCHC's employees received service and excellence awards for their contributions to the community. In addition, awards were given to the Capitol Hill WIC program for the largest increase in caseload in a large site and for having the highest breastfeeding rate in WIC. The Fox Point WIC program received awards for having the largest increase in case load in a small site and for having the greatest increase in breast-feeding rates.

**If you have further questions about the PCHC WIC program contact Lynda Greene at 401-444-0400 ext 3121.**

### Discount Prescription Drug Program Saves \$130,000

In May 2004, PCHC, Brooks Pharmacy, and Anthony's Drug launched 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 health insurance benefits.

We are happy to report that as of December 2004 – just seven months since the program's launch – PCHC has saved its patients over \$130,000 on prescription drug costs!

Our sincere thanks to Brooks Pharmacy and Anthony's Drug of Providence for their ongoing efforts to make this program a success.

#### Board of Directors

To continue our commitment to be the bridge to quality care and good health in Providence, 51% of PCHC Board Members are also our patients.

Melahi Briggs  
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Mary Jones, Chairwoman  
Dr. Hugh F. Lena  
Elizabeth Melendez  
Keo Prathep  
Michael J. Ryan  
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Kathleen A. Souza  
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#### PCHC LOCATIONS

**Administrative Offices**  
375 Allens Avenue  
401-444-0400

**Allen Berry Health Center**  
202 Prairie Avenue  
401-444-0570

**Capitol Hill Health Center**  
40 Candace Street  
401-444-0550

**Central Health Center**  
239 Cranston Street  
401-444-0580

**Fox Point Health Center**  
550 Wickenden Street  
401-444-0530

**Olneyville Health Center**  
100 Curtis Street  
401-444-0540

**Whitmarsh STD Clinic**  
557 Broad Street  
401-444-0483

Visit us at [www.providencechc.org](http://www.providencechc.org)  
or call 401-444-0400

#### Providence CHC Fast Facts

#### Did you know...

PCHC physicians comprise the largest primary care network in Rhode Island. Our latest statistics show that the PCHC Health Centers see over 430 patients a day, and about 120,000 encounters each year.

PCHC screened 1,219 children for lead poisoning in July, August, and September 2004. Only 45 children (3.7%) had elevated lead levels. PCHC has worked hard since its inception in 1968 to reduce the number of children who are lead poisoned in inner-city Providence through educational and screening programs.

