

The Gift of a Happy Smile



Dr. Stanley Hoyt Block, Medical Director; Mayor David N. Cicilline; Marie Ghazal, VP, Patient Care and Nursing Services; Cameron Chrystal, Dental Supervisor; Denise Fortin, VP Human Resources



Top row: Brunilda Vega, Rogelis Mosquea, Rocio Mosquea, Johnny Montanez, Cindy Vinas, Carleen Signore, Dr. John Wade, Marie Ghazal
Bottom row: Dr. Melissa Weintraub, Cameron Chrystal, Kerri Calderiso, Jr. Joseph Pezza, Bethany Dyl (Student)

During PCHC's fourth annual "Give Kids a Smile" event, a team of dentists and hygienists provided free dental care to 80 children! These patients—75% of whom belong to our health centers—received cleanings, dental repairs and sealants... sometimes for the first time in their lives.

A dedicated team of four dentists and two dental hygienists volunteered their time for this year's GKAS event, which was attended by Providence Mayor David Cicilline.

Our heartfelt thanks to this year's participating dentists and hygienists:

Dr. John Wade
Dr. Maria Saccoccio
Dr. Robert Varone
Dr. Joseph Pezza
Carlene Signore
Kerri Calderiso

You gave a lot of smiles to Rhode Island children!



Dr. Ivan Wolfson and Crossroads Director Lisa Roy, RN

We are very proud of our accomplishments over the past two years since the Providence Community Health Centers took over operations of Health Care for the Homeless Program at Crossroads Health Center. The Clinic is funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration to provide health care free of cost to those who meet the definition of homelessness. In year one there was a 30% increase in patient medical visits to the clinic and to date for 2009 the number of visits to the clinic has doubled from the start of operations. The clinic, located in the Crossroads Rhode Island Multi-service center at 160 Broad Street in Providence, is a special place for adults who are homeless to receive primary medical, dental and behavioral health services.

Crossroads Health Center: Meeting the Challenges to Serve the Homeless

The clinic is managed by Lisa Roy, RN, Clinic Nurse Manager. Lisa brings years of nursing experience working with underserved patients and managerial experience from her work in long-term care. Lisa joins the provider staff: Dr. Ivan Wolfson, Caitlin May, NP; Barbara Vitale, RN; Dr. Reema Hussein, Psychiatrist; and dedicated volunteers Dr. Joshua Gutman and Rebecca Carley, NP.

As more patients in the clinic are being served, programs have expanded to include pharmacy assistance, diabetes education, asthma education and outreach. We know that 2009 will see an even greater increase in health care services available to Rhode Island's homeless. **Refer to our website for further information about Crossroads Health Center.**

Welcoming Dr. Mary McCabe



Dr. Mary McCabe, the new Dental Director at PCHC, shares her time between PCHC's Dental Clinic for children and prenats on Monday through Thursday and at PCHC at Crossroads Dental Clinic for homeless adults on Friday. She is a graduate of Georgetown University School of Dentistry, earned her MBA from the University of Rhode Island and previously worked as Dental Director of the Greater New Bedford Community Dental Center.

Dr. McCabe is a wonderful asset to our patients as she speaks fluent Spanish.

Her expertise and clinical leadership will not only help us continue to provide quality dental care to our patients but will also enable us to expand our dental services for those in need. Last year we provided dental care to 3800 patients. This year we look forward to increasing that number by an additional 3000.

Dr. McCabe is a Clinical Instructor at Brown University School of Medicine. She was awarded the New Bedford Times, Women of the Year Award in 2006, and was a recipient of the New England Community Health Center Association Clinician of the Year Award.

Dr. McCabe is a Clinical Instructor at Brown University School of Medicine. She was awarded the New Bedford Times, Women of the Year Award in 2006, and was a recipient of the New England Community Health Center Association Clinician of the Year Award.

Providence CHC Fast Facts

Last year PCHC gave out over \$2 million worth of free prescription medications to 3300 patients unable to afford the cost of the drugs.

Did you know...

In 2008 PCHC provided care to 34,400 patients.
37% of PCHC's patients are at or below an income that is 100% of the Federal Poverty Level.
PCHC is part of a country wide network of health centers that service over 18 million people.
One third of our staff (95 individuals) is bilingual to meet the needs of our culturally diverse patients.



Signore Awarded

Carleen Signore, a Registered Dental Hygienist at the Providence Community Health Center Dental Clinic, recently received the 2009 Community College of Rhode Island Dr. Eleanor Vanable Community Outreach Award at the Dental Hygiene Commencement on May 21, 2009. Mrs. Signore received this award for her contributions to the community, as well as her volunteer work with the CCRI Dental Department.

Since May 2005, Carleen has been responsible for creating and maintaining a working relationship with the CCRI Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting programs. She has personally mentored over 150 Dental Hygiene Students, as well as several Dental Assisting students.

Kathy Gazzola, Department Chair for the CCRI Department of Dental Hygiene, explains, "Carleen is a superb clinician, dental public health advocate and role model for student dental hygienists. It is with great pride that the dental hygiene faculty chose her for our most prestigious dental public health award". During her tenure at PCHC, Carleen has provided preventative dental care to thousands of under privileged children.

Teva Donates 3000 Inhalers



(l to r) Keeshia Muhammad, Teva Respiratory Executive Director of Marketing; Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy; Dr. Stanley Block, PCHC Medical Director and Asthma/Allergy Specialist; Merrill R. Thomas, CEO

PCHC was recently the recipient of 3000 inhalers for their patients suffering from asthma. The inhalers, which normally would cost over \$93,000, was a donation from Direct Relief and Teva Pharmaceuticals. The inhalers will be distributed as needed to patients that come to the Providence Community Health Centers' Asthma/Allergy Clinic for care.

During the press conference that was held at the PCHC—Capitol Hill site Dr. Stanley Block said, "Rhode Islanders are particularly affected by asthma, as only four states report higher current asthma prevalence rates than us. In our State, over one in ten kids under 18 reported asthma symptoms between 2001 and 2005."

"The Center's (PCHC) Asthma/Allergy Clinic has worked over the past 30 years to help inner-city patients, many of whom are children, deal with severe asthma and allergies. Asthma medicine is extremely costly, and Teva's generous donation of inhalers for the centers will help many patients who would otherwise not be able to afford the medication. Nationally, annual costs associated with treatment of asthma range from \$20 billion to \$37 billion, and asthmatics living in poor urban and rural areas are at greater risk of suffering and death due to asthma. Teva's donation will help keep these patients well, improve their quality of life, and keep them out of emergency rooms. The Providence Community Health Centers are doing tremendous work and I commend the staff for their efforts to deliver high-quality health care for Providence's residents," said Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy.

PCHC has over 3000 patients that suffer from asthma.

Demolition Takes Place on Prairie Ave

The old Federated Lithographers Building on Prairie Ave which was purchased by PCHC several years ago will soon be demolished. Thanks to funding from the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and recently received federal stimulus funds, site prep work on this property will soon begin. Ryan Construction Company has been brought on board to work with PCHC in cleaning up the site. As early as late May 2009 work will begin on lead and asbestos abatement, demolition of the old buildings, and soil remediation.

PCHC is building a new health center on this land to help meet the growing demand for quality primary health care in Providence. The new facility will include Ob/Gyn, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, and Family Practice. It will also include such specialty programs as the PCHC Asthma/Allergy Clinic, Urgent Care and new Behavioral Health Clinic.

Currently PCHC provides care for over 31,000 patients in six health centers and two dental clinics all located in Providence.



Winners of our raffle "A Taste of Indulgence" from the Food and Wine Tasting Raffle

First prize; Trip to Sonoma and San Francisco
winner Joe Cardello

Second Prize; five days in Orlando FL and tickets to the Epcot 2009 Food and Wine Tasting
winner Frank Tabela

Third Prize; dinner for two in Providence
winner Jim Padbury

Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket.