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The Community Health Centers Newsletter

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INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS? PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL TO CEO@CHCB.ORG. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR MISSION AND SERVICES, PLEASE VISIT WWW.CHCB.ORG.

Fiscal Year 2022 Highlights



134,623
patient visits



865
patients received
treatment for
opioid addiction



2,402
dental patients
were treated for
emergent needs



2,279
individuals
experiencing
homelessness
received no-cost
health care



\$436,350
was subsidized
through the
Sliding-Fee Scale
Financial
Assistance Program

The Community Health Centers of Burlington is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and Federally Qualified Health Center funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and generous community support. CHCB is a Health Center Program grantee under 42 U.S.C. 254b, and a deemed Public Health Service employee under 42 U.S.C. 233(g)-(n).

All CHCB programs and services are accessible to people with disabilities. This newsletter is available in alternative formats upon request.

Notice of Privacy: The Community Health Centers of Burlington protect the health information of our patients and gift information of our donors in all of our activities including our fundraising work. If you no longer wish to receive newsletters, fundraising appeals, or event invitations from us, please contact the CHCB CR&D Department at 617 Riverside Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401, kanderson@chcb.org, or call (802) 264-8193.



2022 FALL NEWSLETTER

community

IMPACT UPDATE

OVER 51 YEARS OF COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE
QUALITY OF LIFE AND HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Community Health Centers Adds Ninth Location!



"Adding a CHC location, in one of Vermont's fastest growing and most diverse communities, made perfect sense!"

■ We have come a long way since we started as the People's Free Clinic 50 years ago, but our mission has remained very much the same – to improve the health of ALL within the communities we serve. We take the word “ALL” very seriously. Health care providers everywhere strive to provide excellent care to all the patients who walk through their doors – as do we. But here at the Community Health Centers, we care just as much about those in our community who don't or can't walk through our doors.

Our commitment to health equity requires us to understand that not everyone can or will come to us, so creating integrated practice settings that meet the needs of

each community and break down barriers to access is essential to improving the health of ALL. That's why we were so excited to create a new practice in Essex Junction as our ninth location. We were already serving many patients from Essex and Essex Junction, but we knew there were many more who were not coming in for care because there were too many barriers – financial, transportation, language, lack of trust – so many reasons and more. Adding a CHC location, in one of Vermont's fastest growing and most diverse communities, made perfect sense!

On August 6, we celebrated the success of the opening of CHC - Essex with face painting, tours of the new facility, activities with our dental

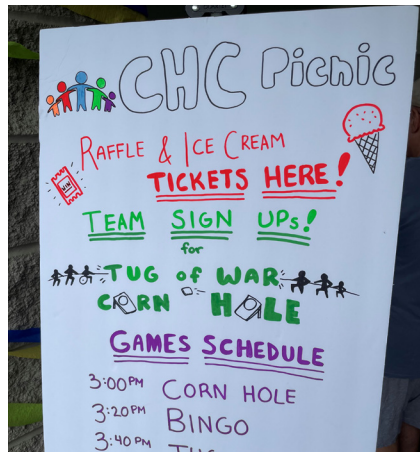
and nutrition departments, food, ice cream, and remarks from local leaders. The event was a wonderful way for Essex residents to get to see the new facility, meet their providers and learn about our services specific to a Federally Qualified Health Center. Dr. Christopher Vogt, DO, Associate Medical Director at CHC – Essex, reiterated the importance of the opening of this location: “We are excited for the Essex community to meet our team so we can build long-term, therapeutic relationships that allow for the development of healthier habits,” said Dr. Vogt. “The need for this new location has been clear, as we're often hearing from community members how thankful they are we're accepting new patients; we're so glad to be here!”

A Note from Jeff

"...our staff have given more of themselves to **care for our community** than any employer would have the right to ask."

- Jeff McKee, PsyD, CHC CEO

■ As Vermont moves into its colder months, I can't help but reflect on the summer season at CHC. Notably, I was delighted we had the opportunity to celebrate our staff at an organization-wide picnic – something we had not done in over two years. Since the start of the pandemic, our staff have given more of themselves to care for our community than any employer would have the right to ask. It was such a great pleasure to recognize their hard work by closing up shop a bit early, and getting together in person for some fun and relaxation.



Recognizing and rewarding the dedication of our staff remains an organizational focus over the next several months. Recruitment and retention of our staff are the



most critical elements we face in fulfilling our mission; we are challenged to keep pace with the rapidly changing health care workforce marketplace. But we know that our staff are deserving of every benefit we can offer them. As a result, we will be working hard to implement a plan to invest in our staff to the fullest extent possible, ensuring the best care in the community.

— Jeff

CHC Onsite Pharmacy Coming Soon!

■ Over the years, we've heard all too often about how difficult it is for patients to pick up and pay for their prescription medications. They can leave our office with their order in-hand, but these life-saving medications may never get filled. As a result, we have made the commitment to build our own onsite pharmacy conveniently located in our practice at CHC - Riverside. We're hopeful that by the spring of 2023, patients will be able to fill their prescriptions before they leave our building and will be able to afford them through various subsidies and financial assistance programs.

For many years already, the Community Health Centers has



been part of a Federally Qualified Health Center pharmacy network which offers our patients reduced cost prescriptions, saving them roughly \$2 million annually. But adding an onsite pharmacy secures the next step in accessibility. "No patient should ever have to make the difficult decision between refilling their prescription and their family's next meal," said

Jeff McKee, CHC CEO. "Adding a physical pharmacy into our array of services, is a proactive approach that ensures that no matter what is happening in the national pharmaceutical landscape, our patients are protected. We will now have the ability to work with partners, not only to maintain the 340B prescription drug program, but expand it."

Construction will begin this fall at our Riverside practice and we'll keep the community updated with this exciting progress.

"...no patient should ever have to make the **difficult decision** between refilling their prescription and **their family's next meal.**"

- Jeff McKee, PsyD, CHC CEO

WISH LIST

Your donations go straight to work with these specifically-needed items. Any amount helps!

Comfort for Mental Health Rooms

\$4,400

We added an additional CHC location in Essex that offers mental health services, and plans are underway to expand the number of mental health rooms at our Riverside location, too. Successful mental health treatment requires a comfortable environment. As a result, we need furniture and artwork within these new mental health rooms to improve the patient experience.

•Patient Club Chairs (Need 8 @ \$400 each)

•Lamps (Need 8 @ \$50 each)

•Welcoming, Soothing Artwork (Need 8 @ \$25 each)

•Side Tables (Need 8 @ \$75 each)

Pediatric Audiometer

\$5,000

This piece of equipment is needed at our Champlain Islands location so our providers can screen and evaluate whether a newborn is experiencing hearing loss.

Pulse Oximeter and Pediatric Pulse Oximeter

\$2,400

This piece of equipment is needed so our providers can determine treatment options for patients with severe asthma and lung disease. (Need 4 @ \$600 each)

Maternal/Child Health Program

\$1,000

Our OB Team provides numerous support services to new mothers, especially those who are experiencing financial hardship, and has an ongoing need for helpful supplies.

•Thermometers

•Baby Nail Files

•Nipple Cream for Breast/Chest Feeding

•Children's Books (in various languages)

•Vitamin B Drops for Newborns

Mental Health Pamphlet Translation

\$1,000

Our mental health clinicians would appreciate their educational pamphlets translated into the languages most spoken by our patients. Roughly 3,000 patients speak a language other than English. Grounding, self-care, and breathing exercises are just a few of topics covered in these materials.

School-Based Dental Center Equipment

\$5,867

Our School-Based Dental Center cares for all children within the Burlington School District who are low-income and/or uninsured without a Dental Home. This critical program is always in need of preventative equipment to keep our youngest patients smiling.

•Young Cordless Hygiene Handpieces (to remove plaque and stain on teeth; need 3 @ \$985 each)

•Curing Lights (for curing tooth colored fillings and sealants; need 2 @ \$1,456 each)

Waterbottle Refilling Stations

\$3,600 (3 @ 1,200ea)

Refilling stations are needed at our Riverside, Safe Harbor and Pearl Street locations for patients.

Microscope for Riverside Laboratory

\$3,500

Our laboratory is in need of a new microscope to be used to identify cells, bacteria and crystals for faster treatment of various infections.

EDMR Light Bar and Tappers

\$2,500

EDMR is a research-based therapeutic approach that works by alternately activating/stimulating both sides of the brain (with lights and/or tappers) to help treat trauma.

To make a donation or learn more, please contact Kim at kanderson@chcb.org or (802) 264-8193.