

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

In the July newsletter, I wrote:

I bring some difficult news. As many of you know, we have been expecting news about our FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center) application this month. We have received a press release that does not include Covenant Community Care among the recipients of the New Access Points.

In this newsletter, I am extremely excited and honored to share with you the following excerpt from a news release:

HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) Administrator Elizabeth M. Duke today (August 27, 2007) announced \$61 million in new health center grants to help half a million Americans -- many with no health insurance -- obtain access to the comprehensive primary and preventive health care services that health centers provide.

Included in the grants Duke announced today are:

Grants totaling \$20 million will establish 41 new health center sites in 25 states. These New Access Point grants will help an estimated 220,000 Americans gain access to health center services. The New Access Point grants were awarded to health care organizations in areas where more primary medical care is needed.

Covenant Community Care received the highest grant amount of these 41 new access points with an award of

\$758,333 for the first 14 months and an additional \$1,300,000 for the next 24 months. The \$650,000 per year was the maximum amount possible and we got it!

As previously reported in the spring newsletter, this New Access Point Federally Qualified Health Center Status provides three major benefits:

- Enhanced reimbursement rates for Medicare & Medicaid visits from roughly \$30 to \$132.
- After a deeming process we will no longer need to provide professional liability insurance for our providers.
- The operating grant dollars cited above.

Thank you all for your prayers and your past support. We believe that for the foreseeable future we will continue to need support for the ministry specific components of our budget as these are not covered under the grant. I will share more specifically these needs as I come to understand them. Be assured that your prayers and financial support continue to be very critical for the clinic. We just conducted a two day strategic planning retreat to develop plans in light of this stunning miracle from Our Father in heaven. Many, many critical projects must be accomplished in the next 3 – 6 months so please continue to pray that we don't grow weary in well doing.

Tom Léger
Board President

Goodbye Bruce!



Bruce Larson is leaving the Clinic Board. He and Rhoda are moving to Illinois to be closer to their adult children and grandchildren.

Those of you who have served in volunteer organizations, especially those which are just beginning—then grow quite large, have some idea of how difficult it is. Covenant Community Care has struggled mightily to survive, only recently receiving strong assurances of continued viability.

Bruce is one of those people about whom we can truly say, "We never would have made it without him." He has been an extremely hard working and humble volunteer. No job was too difficult, too overwhelming or too demeaning for Bruce to pitch in and get his hands dirty. He has been wise, peace loving and peacemaking through times of great tension and

difficulty. When cuts had to be made, or reduced hours for those who needed to be paid, Bruce met with those workers personally, promising to restore them at the first opportunity...which was a promise kept.

The Apostle Paul says that followers of Jesus are living letters, known and read by all people. Bruce, we have read you like a book and we are grateful. You have encouraged and strengthened us in our faith.

I know Bruce would say, "Give God the Glory!" and so we shall. Thank you, Bruce and Rhoda. May the Lord bless you in this new window of opportunity to love and serve Him. It will be interesting to see who the Lord sends our way to take your place, perhaps someone reading this newsletter.

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of Covenant Community Care, Inc. is to provide Christ-centered primary health care services to minimally employed individuals and families without health care insurance.

Covenant Community Care

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A Great Day for Our 4th Annual Golf Outing

The sun was shining, the course was beautiful and 75 golfers had a great day of golf and friendship. The 4th Annual CCC Golf Outing was a success in every way. Having a shot gun start allowed all golfers to complete their round in a timely fashion, and Lynn Lindahl again came close to record setting by hitting the “pin” on the hole-in-one green. It was also good to have many first time participants including a greater number of women. As in the past, the food was very good, and there were many winners of prizes both for golf and the drawing that followed our lunch.

The silent auction proved better than last year both in items to purchase and the amount of money raised for the clinic. As a result of sponsorships of tees and greens, registrations and the silent auction, over \$8,000 was collected to help the clinic with the operations budget. As important as the financial contributions are, we were just as pleased to have Dr. Best, our Medical Director, and Tom Léger, our Board President, present the mission of the clinic and an update of some of the exciting things that are happening.

We are thankful for all who took part in the morning events but a special thanks to our Golf Committee made up of Bob Capps, Chris Garvey, Dick Knezek, Bruce Larson and Julia Smith. Thanks also to the church representatives who did the recruiting and helped us to increase our participation by almost 50%. They were: Andy Almquist (Christ Covenant), Jim Beitler (Trinity Covenant), Jay Coslow (Faith Covenant), Peter Farago (Hope Community), Chris Garvey (Life Covenant), Dick Knezek (Dearborn Covenant), Tom Léger (Messiah Covenant), Todd Luchies (Trinity Presbyterian), Julia Smith (Guardian Lutheran), and Mark VanAnandel (Citadel of Faith Covenant).



A Word from Our Medical Director

The harvest is ripe, but the laborers are few. We have had a record number of patients visit our outstanding staff through our two medical clinics in recent months. We have some very faithful volunteers like Jeanne in the dispensary, Claudine helping with inventory, Cindy Alvarado at the front desk and, of course, Marylou who volunteers in any area the clinic needs. Many medical and pharmacy students from WSU and residents from Beaumont serve with our longtime volunteer providers: Marty, Pam, Dr. Weiss, Dianna and Dr. Artinian; our newest volunteers Billy and recent grads Dr. Lee and Dr. Lundquist who are both moving on into their specialty practices.

In all this growth, we still have a mission to our uninsured working families who still represent the overwhelming majority of our clients and will not benefit directly from the recent 330 grant that we received. We still need your help in monetary and in kind support especially as we expand services through the grant. Our goal is to provide equal benefits for our insured and uninsured patients. We are searching for volunteers in the form of specialists to allow our patients to come to their office or who could come to the clinic monthly, so that we ourselves will not have the type of two-tiered medical systems that we are trying to remedy. In the current state of affairs, our insured patients will have access to our expert staff as well as specialists through their health plans. However, our uninsured clients will only receive primary services and Rheumatology services, without the benefit of the occasional X-Ray, biopsy or consultation from a cardiologist that they need. This is an all points bulletin for orthopedics, cardiologists, and nephrologists and any other primary care and specialty medical provider that feels the call to serve. WE NEED YOU, the people of Southeastern Michigan need you, and you need to experience the rewards that volunteering at Covenant Community Care has to offer. Come see our beautiful facilities, meet our outstanding staff and interact with people from all walks of life who work and live in our community. See you soon!

Lydia Reasonover Best, M.D.
Medical Director