



The Care Connection

Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care

Volume 7, Number 3

Generosity Overflows As Inaugural Event Provides Brew With A View

Our Mission
 To provide health care and support services to all, including the medically indigent, in a nondiscriminatory manner and setting, dedicated to continuity with quality medical care.

FHC Values– Equality

We believe in the inherent worth of each individual and strive to interact respectfully and fairly with each person, particularly those who are most vulnerable by approaching each individual with compassion and caring.

Board of Directors

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Family Health Care's inaugural summer event was held at Boulevard Brewing Co. on July 15. Friends and supporters of FHC gathered in the Muehlebach Suite overlooking the

magnificent Kansas City skyline. Guests enjoyed a delicious taco dinner graciously provided by El Patron Cocina & Bar and La Fonda El Taquito as the brew flowed courtesy of our hosts at Boulevard. Many thanks to April Adicks, Eric Critten and Scotty McCormick for manning the taco bar. Local GAP staff volunteers staged an amazing silent auction with a multitude of fantastic prizes. Music was provided by DJ and FHC employee Pat Hopewell.

Dr. Sharon Lee presented a special award to Dr. Deana Bender for her years of service organizing and maintaining the FHC Dental Clinic.

Thank you to Event Co-Chairs Kristopher Dabner, President and Creative Director of The Greensman, and Brent Thompson, General Manager of the Gap Country Club Plaza, for all of their hard work and commitment on behalf of Family Health Care!

We would also like to extend very special thanks to many individuals who made the evening a success:

Tom Besgrove for donating his time and talents to create the *Tacos and Beer on the Boulevard* logo design.

Chris Campbell and his lovely assistant Karen Campbell for photographing the evenings event.

Steve Scott and Bank Midwest along with Tim Reynolds and Merchant Services for providing the credit card services.

Pat Hopewell and Chris Hernandez for their DJ and emcee talents.

The GAP staff for their many hours of service to make this event happen.

Hayley Cherveney and Brent Ediger for all of their Facebook efforts along with Jordan Delorenzi and Kathy Hoggard who worked non-stop during the entire event.

We were proud to host an "all Boulevard" event spanning from one end of Southwest Boulevard at FHC to Boulevard Brewing company at the other end. Funds raised through the generosity of sponsors and guests allow FHC to continue to provide medical care to those in need. Thank you for your support!



FHC Medical Director, Dr. Sharon Lee poses with Event Co-Chair Brent Thompson.



Event Co-Chair Kristopher Dabner with friends Terry Anderson, Michael Henry, and Brent Ediger.



Kansas City area GAP staff volunteers donated many hours of community service for this fundraiser.



Chris Hernandez from Channel 5 Action News announces auction winners!

The Care Connection

Notes from Dr. Lee



It may seem an odd match for Family Health Care to have an emphasis on fighting illiteracy in our community.

During the early years of the clinic's work, Family Health Care offered special, health information for people with low literacy. Pill charts with clock pictures and pictures of food were provided to help patients understand how to take the medicines. We also began to provide used books for children, many gathered from local garage sales. However, although Dr. Diane Lucas and I gave out books and modeled reading with the children, many of the adults did not follow through.

It became clear that the children were unlikely to learn to read from parents who

were not able to read themselves. Over time, Family Health Care began to focus on helping the parents with reading as well. Half of the adult residents in two of the three zip codes primarily served by Family Health Care do not have high school diplomas, and the third has a lower proportion without a diploma only because that zip code (66103) includes a high number of medical and nursing students at KU.

There are multiple studies that have shown inadequate literacy has a significant association with health disparities, poor health outcomes, and higher health care costs.

We provide books for children through community donations in conjunction with gifts of new books through Kansas City

Reach Out and Read. Punky Thomas, a certified teacher, is the core of our program. Thanks to Punky and the supporters of the program, Family Health Care helps people develop their potential. Through the Family Health Care Literacy Program, we provide assessments, tutoring and other supports to help adults develop skills in order to earn a high school level General Education Diploma (GED) certification which leads to better jobs as well as improved health outcomes.

Regarding new starts, Alexander Graham Bell said, "When one door closes, another opens...". Books, volunteers and donations are welcome— consider helping us open a new door for people who have had many doors shut on them.

Tacos and Beer on the Boulevard — Thank You to Our Sponsors and Auction Donors

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STUFF

Kat Terry

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ANGEL FOOD AT THE Q

Since Family Health Care developed the Quindaro satellite clinic, there has been concern about the lack of access to healthy food in the area. Transportation issues include limits on the number of bags one can carry on a bus, and at least two bus changes to the store. These barriers are simply too much for many, especially the elderly.

Family Health Care is working to develop food access and food preservation programs. Using produce from nearby community gardens, we want to teach people how to preserve produce for the winter to make use of the surplus.

Our first new program is a partnership between Faith Lutheran Church, the Q Clinic and Angel Food Ministries, a non-denominational organization that provides food relief throughout the U.S. Food boxes are distributed at the Q on one Saturday each month. One box of food (costing \$50 or less) will generally feed a family of four for about a week, or a single senior citizen for almost a month. All are welcome to order — there are no income restrictions or applications.



Changing Lives With Literacy Services

Mary Moore has been a patient at Family Health Care since the fall of 2002. Mary is very pleased with the healthcare she receives here. “Dr. Lee is a wonderful doctor! If you leave a message, she calls you back. She doesn’t prescribe too much medicine and tells you how to help yourself.”

Mary currently has five teenage boys living with her, three sons and two nephews for whom she provides foster care. The boys are also patients at FHC. Mary is a conscientious parent—one who believes parents need to be home keeping watch over their children.

Mary started coming to Family Health Care in the middle of May to study and prepare for her GED exam. FHC is fortunate to have a Literacy Specialist with an extensive education background. Punky Thomas comes in every day to tutor Mary. Dr. Lee suggested Mary get more exercise, so most days Mary walks to and from the clinic, about 2 1/2 miles round trip. She hauls her backpack of books each day too. Almost every morning at 10am Mary comes to the clinic to study.

Mary grew up in Greenwood, Mississippi. Life at school there was difficult at best—not the academics, but the social issues and the way in which the teachers treated the children. Mary left school during her middle school years. She made her way to Kansas City 19 years ago. Mary is hard-working, dedicated, and has a good sense of humor! She is committed to her goal and making excellent progress towards earning her GED. What a fine example she is setting for her boys!

Help support Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care

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Thank you for your support of Family Health Care!



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We're Thankful For...

- ▶ Dr. Ron Deskin and Dr. Susan Ellis for providing dental care
- ▶ Eileen Ellis for organizing books and magazines
- ▶ Jeff and Teri Neustaedter for magazines
- ▶ KU Legal Entrepreneurs for donating books

Join us for *Champagne & Chocolate 2011*

an event benefiting **Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care**

**Champagne
& Chocolate**

SOUTHWEST BOULEVARD FAMILY HEALTH CARE

Saturday, November 12, 2011 6 - 9 PM

At the home of David Brinkerhoff and Dan Meiners

1257 West 57th Street

Kansas City, Missouri

Event Co-Chairs: Mary Wetzels & Kelley Funk

Reservations are limited, tickets must be purchased prior to event. For tickets contact Shari Webster at 913.722.3100, ext. 272 or shariwebster@swbfhcs.org.