



# The Care Connection

**Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care**

Volume 7, Number 1

### Our Mission

To provide health care and supportive services to all, including the medically indigent, in a nondiscriminatory manner, in a setting dedicated to continuity with quality 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

- Chris Alliman
- Garnetta Brooks
- Josh Freeman
- Tim Griffith
- Kathy Hoggard
- Elнора Jefferson
- Janell Jones
- Gerald Ortego
- J. Dollie Rainey
- Allie Scholes
- Jess Stark
- Elizabeth Stevens

## Family Health Care Turns 22!

Twenty-two years ago Family Health Care was started out of a desire to truly serve the needy in our community. At the time, there were no other safety net clinics on the Kansas-side of the metropolitan area. The Wyandotte Health Department provided prenatal, STD, TB and well-child services. The Bethany ER provided the bulk of the uninsured emergency services. Otherwise only those with insurance were served in our County.

In the late eighties there was no Ryan White funding to help those with HIV and there were few medications against that disease. Family Health Care opened with the mission to provide medical care to those who were simply left out, including those with AIDS.

In today's atmosphere of unemployment, government funding cuts and enlarging gaps in access to health care for those without private means, Family Health Care's mission of providing services to those in need is as important as ever.

The work of Family Health Care literally saves lives. Community support through donations, volunteers and grants is critical to our ability to continue to provide vital services.



### **Tammy's Story**

Tammy has reasons to celebrate her birthday (she just turned 47) and Family Health Care's. She is a Family Health Care staff member who manages the medication assistance program to insure patients get their medicines. In the late 1980's She was the third woman in KC to be diagnosed with HIV. At the time there were few rays of hope; AIDS filled most with dread.

In the 22 years, Tammy has been a patient at Family Health Care she survived not only HIV, but also cancer, a heart attack and addiction; while living in poverty. During her cancer treatment, she came to the clinic daily for yoga classes before her radiation.

Tammy believes her relationship with FHC saved her life. It started with a small step: "I'm alive today because I made that call and Dr. Lee answered the phone."

## Notes from Dr. Lee



Terrible natural disasters have plagued the world and shortened the lives of tens of thousands of individuals in Japan and elsewhere. Mostly we are helpless to make much difference in the tragedies of these disasters which aren't preventable by human endeavor.

**For more than twenty years** Family Health Care has been at the front lines holding back a tsunami of need that shortens the lives of hundreds of individuals in our community. Wyandotte County has the highest death rates for almost all diseases at almost every age in the state of Kansas. (Example- deaths attributable to diabetes in the state occur 12.1 per 100,000 and in Wy County at 20.8 per 100,000.) The zip codes directly served by Family Health Care are even harder hit.

Our primary goal is to provide a lifeline, an opportunity for people who suffer from medical, dental or mental health issues and who have few options for care. In the past month we have provided over a thousand visits and helped hundreds of people. We helped a thirteen year-old newly pregnant girl, a forty-something woman newly diagnosed with HIV, the head of a single-parent family with esophageal cancer, a couple searching for help for the wife's alzhiemers disease, and scores of others with serious health and social needs.

Family Health Care gives a hand up for people to escape debilitating illness and social situations that cause much suffering. We appreciate the financial and volunteer support from those in our community that help us continue to help! We want to be there to answer the phone when someone in need calls.

### From the Q- "Thank You"

By Rachel Jefferson (Director of Community Outreach)

I stopped in a local corner store a few blocks from Quindaro Boulevard Family Health Care. I was wearing the green fleece jacket from the clinic with the FHC logo on the front. The lady at the register inquired: "Just yesterday someone came in with the same jacket. What is Family Health Care?"

It gave me the opportunity to tell her about the nearby location and growing number of services we provide, especially for those without insurance or resources. "That's me!" She said. Cocking her head to the side and smiling she added, "Thank you!"

For many of the employees who work for Family Health Care, these types of encounters are common, but I am new to the clinic and for a minute I was caught off guard by her gratitude. Her "thank you" followed me out the doors and is still with me as I write this. It is a reminder of the little successes we have at the clinic.

Even if she does not come to the Quindaro clinic, she knows she has an option; an option for when her kids are sick or when her mother needs medicine. She won't have to make the choice between groceries or health care, between gas to get to work or paying to see a doctor. What we do enables people so they do not have to make those sacrifices. What we strive to provide is a better quality of life for others, and the reminder of that comes as easily as going to the convenience store!

### **Backyard Blooms for Family Health Care**



**Suburban  
Lawn &  
Garden**

**105th & Roe**

**Friday, April  
29th**

**5-8pm**

*Enjoy live  
music,  
beverages,  
snacks and  
Shopping!*

**Suburban is  
donating 10% of  
the profits from  
the evening's  
sales to Family  
Health Care.**

*Gift certificates  
are available for  
those not quite  
ready to*

*plant or with big  
projects coming  
up!*

**Fundraising on Hogs!**

**12th Annual River Run**

**Saturday June 18th**

A motorcycle “poker run” through Wyandotte & Douglas Co.

The ride begins in Bonner Springs, Kansas at noon.

Music, prizes and a great crowd!

**Join us!**

For Information contact Pris- theriverrun@hotmail.com or 913-722-3100 ext 351.



Staff on the “Anaconda”



**Rosedale Farmers Market  
Opens May 1st**

Sundays, May 1 – September

Noon to 3 p.m., rain or shine

In the parking lot of Family Health Care.

Fresh produce, baked items, and FUN!

**We are having a Birthday Party!**

At the clinic



**April 1st 2-5PM**

**Join Us in Celebration with Ice Cream and Cake!**

**Help support SW Blvd Family Health Care. Make a donation today.**

**My donation of \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.**

**Want to do more? Become a FAN of SW Blvd Family Health Care.**

**Make a commitment of ongoing support in one of the following ways:**

\_\_\_\_ **Friend:** Have an ongoing, hands-on volunteer experience. Circle your area(s) of interest: Help with mailings; fundraisers; special projects; literacy program; professional volunteer, other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ **Advocate:** Support FHC financially with an annual contribution of \$100 or more.

\_\_\_\_ **Nurturer:** Do both: Volunteer and make an annual contribution of \$100 or more.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Help us conserve resources: \_\_\_\_\_ Send me the newsletter by regular mail. \_\_\_\_\_ Send me the newsletter by email only.



Non-profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Kansas City, Ks.  
Permit No. 650

Southwest Boulevard Family Health  
Care Services  
300 Southwest Boulevard  
Kansas City, KS 66103-2150

<http://swboulevardfamilyhealthcare.org>  
Phone: 913-722-3100  
Fax: 913-722-2542

### **We're Thankful For...**

- ♥ Teacher Karen McClain from Hawthorn Hill Elementary in Lee's Summit for donating childrens' books to the literacy program.
- ♥ Dollie Rainey, Rose Farnum, Maria Reyes, Jane Fowler, and Susan Tuscher for organizing the 2011 "HIV-Women's Perspectives" Conference (18th annual).
- ♥ Dr. Ron Deskin for his many years and many hours of volunteer service.
- ♥ A.C. Cuppy for medical supplies.
- ♥ Dee Mills for Fitness Center donations.
- ♥ Julia Koncak for medical supplies.
- ♥ The KU Ophthalmology Department, Dr. Terry Curran and the Community school nurses- including Kendra Vaughn; who helped get the children in for exams and eyeglasses for dozens of children.

**Save the Date:**            **Tickets \$50**

**Friday, July 15th**

**5:30- 9:30 pm**

**Boulevard Brewing Co. Muehlebach Suite**

**2501 Southwest Boulevard K.C., MO**

