



# The Care Connection

Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care

Volume 7, Number 2

## 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.

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## ABOVE AND BEYOND

**Imagine...**being so poor you have your utilities including water turned off for months. That your spouse who suffered a stroke now requires full-time care while you try to hold down a job and provide for your family that includes two teenagers. Consider that your job pays you a bit too much to qualify for Medicaid and far too little to purchase health insurance.

**Imagine...**having diabetes with so little food in the house that your blood sugar drops, sometimes so low that you almost pass out before swallowing jelly from the food kitchen to bring your sugar levels up. Then imagine developing an infection in your foot that is so bad you have to have an amputation. Finally... imagine the surgeon telling you that you must do a daily dressing change and take an IV medicine four hours every day for six weeks because the infection is in your bone and moving upward. Oh, and you are also deaf and learning disabled.

**Now imagine...** There is no one to help you get your life-saving medicine. No one to help change your dressings.

Stop imagining, because **this is a real situation. Where would you turn?**

In this true situation, this family turned to the only safety net clinic with staff willing and able to provide this level of care - - - Family Health Care on Southwest Boulevard.

Four or more hours of IV therapy every day for six weeks (yes, including Sundays and holidays) at Family Health Care. Cleaning and re-dressing the amputation site. Help getting the necessary medications, dressing and other supplies, help with your spouse, and yes... even with food. All the support needed to help save your leg and your life.

Nicole, Shanita, Samantha, Caroline, Dirk and other staff and volunteers at Family Health Care have pitched in. They give time away from their own families on weekends and holidays, to provide needed care.

We serve the patient. We serve the entire family.

That is what we do at Family Health Care.

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## Notes from Dr. Lee



Often I am asked what it is that makes Family Health Care so special. There are a number of clinics today that provide services that may appear superficially similar. There are other safety net clinics, other family practices, even some other medical “homes.” But actually there are not others quite like FHC and some characteristics of FHC are unduplicated locally or regionally. Not only do we have a very different infrastructure and internal culture, but a closer look reveals that Family Health Care is very special in many other ways. Family Health Care’s scope of medical services are unequalled in safety net facilities. We provide necessary

extra services not offered through other clinics.

\* FHC provided in-office IV therapy and dressing changes, 7 days a week for 6 weeks, when it was required for a diabetic patient with a partial foot amputation who did not have health insurance, electricity or running water, and did not qualify for visiting nurses.

\* FHC provided home visits for a dying patient who did not qualify for hospice services and for another dying patient when the home health agency decided not to provide services due to neighborhood safety concerns.

\*FHC provided overnight babysitting when parents had to be admitted to the hospital. and had no family to oversee the children.

Family Health Care has unparalleled expertise in primary care and treatment of hundreds of people with serious and complex diseases such as HIV, Hepatitis C, and Hepatitis B. FHC provides care for others with hard to treat or unusual diseases such as Takayasu’s, rheumatoid arthritis, cutaneous lymphoma, Huntington’s chorea, and other debilitating and deadly diseases. No wonder the people who work at FHC as staff or volunteers are so proud of our work. No wonder our donors are justifiably proud of supporting the work of Family Health Care. When you look closely, you will be too.

### HEALTHY HOMES WORKSHOP HELD AT THE Q

Staff at the “Q” got lots of kudos for their Healthy Homes workshop from Erica Forrest at the EPA. “We have provided the training in many locations to a variety of people and interacted with many hosts/hostesses; you all are undeniably the best group we have had hands down. The questions and class participation showed just how concerned and passionate the group is regarding healthy home issues in the communities they represent.”



### Answering the Call to Service



The students at Hawthorn Hill Elementary School in Lee’s Summit answered the call to community service last month. The Student Council sponsored a book drive benefiting Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care’s literacy program. During the week- long book drive students collected and donated more than 1,775 books to those in need! Principal Carol Germano and student council coordinator Christy Lobdell expressed their pride in the student body for their commitment to community service. FHC Literacy Coordinator Punky Thomas was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from these young people. Many of the books collected will be used to start a library for our patients at “The Q”. Many thanks to both students and teachers for a job well done!

## Join us for TACOS & BEER ON THE BOULEVARD

an event benefiting Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care



Friday, July 15th 5:30-9:30 pm

Boulevard Brewing Co. Muehlebach Suite

2501 Southwest Boulevard

Kansas City, Missouri

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. Purchase tickets via PayPal at swbfhcs.org, and click on events.

Proceeds from the silent auction benefit the fitness center

### SPOTLIGHT ON FAMILY HEALTH CARE FITNESS

Like many sayings, the old adage “exercise is the best medicine” couldn’t be more true. Family Health Care encourages its employees to stay fit. Staff are actually paid to exercise during work hours!

Pris Allen, Fitness Center Director, has developed a class schedule which includes 150 monthly classes including aerobics, stretching, strength training, and karate. Much of the equipment at the fitness center is in need of replacement. Donations of gently used fitness equipment (and cash, of course!) are greatly appreciated.

Hayley Cherveney, B.A. in Dance, B.S. Psychology, full-time fitness employee, leads classes for older adults at the Q. Residents of Quindaro and surrounding areas are thrilled to have accessible fitness classes available in their community.



### Help support Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care

#### MAKE A DONATION TODAY!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

#### Payment Method

My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed

(payable to SWBFHC)

Please charge my VISA/Mastercard \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by credit card:

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Expires \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature below: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support of Family Health Care!



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

- ▶ Strasser Hardware for free rental of a rolling scaffold.
- ▶ John Henry of EIT for supplying an electrician on very short notice.
- ▶ REW Materials/Eric Plath for materials for the suspended ceiling at Q.
- ▶ Hawthorn Hill Elementary for donating books for our literacy program  
Reach Out and Read Kansas City for books for well child visits (5 and under).
- ▶ Big Twins Cycles & Calvert's Auto Express for sponsoring the River Run fundraiser.
- ▶ Suburban Lawn and Garden for hosting our fundraising event in April.
- ▶ Harvesters Food Bank for the Project Strength program at the Q (attendees received nutrition and safety education, cooking instruction, and a bag of groceries).
- ▶ Teri and Jeff Neustaedter and Beth Sauer for magazines.
- ▶ Eileen Ellis for organizing books.