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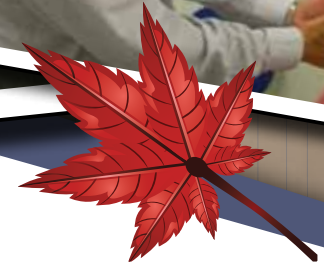


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North Coast Health Ministry

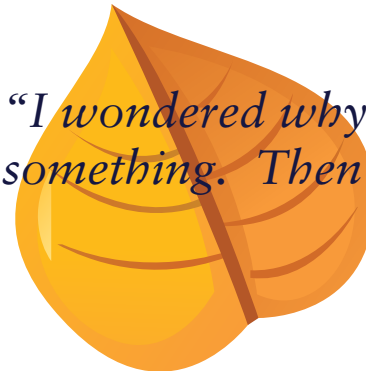
Partners in health care, bridging the gap



"I wondered why somebody didn't do something. Then I realized, I am somebody."

~Author Unknown

Fall Newsletter 2012



In this Issue:

Summer Garden
Party Celebration...page 3
Annual Appeal...page 4
NCHM Patient Navigator
Program...page 5

Did you know?

On our most recent patient survey:

- 29% of NCHM's adult patients reported that they are responsible for one or more children under the age of 18, either financially or as a primary care giver. Keeping our patients healthy helps entire families and our greater community at large.
- 10% of patients reported that they were able to return to work since they've been a patient at NCHM. We are proud of our role in returning healthy people back to the workforce.
- A record 100% of patients reported that their health has improved or stabilized as a result of the care they have received at NCHM. *It doesn't get any better than that!*

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Each of us has the power to save a life. We may not all be doctors or nurses but we all have something we can do to help someone who is suffering.

Some of us volunteer our time – taking phone calls, making patient reminder calls, enrolling people for our services, or helping patients with prescription medication assistance program applications. Some of us donate goods – unused medical dressings, no-longer-needed nebulizers, clinic supplies. Some of us donate a portion of our treasure – to help buy the things we are unable to secure through donations, purchase prescription medications, and pay our doctors and nurses, who work far more than full time taking care of the many people who come through our doors.

I am blessed to know so many people associated with North Coast Health Ministry – volunteers, staff and donors – that realize they have the power to make a difference and have chosen to use that power to help our neighbors in need.

More than two-thirds of our patients say they would have nowhere to go for care other than the local hospital ER if North Coast Health Ministry were not here. NCHM is the only full-time free clinic in western Greater Cleveland. In these challenging times, many of our patients come to us after having delayed care for as long as possible due to lack of funds. Their suffering is compounded by the fact they that have been unable to find work, are struggling to pay their rent, and are worrying about how they will feed their children this week. We help them with their medical concerns but also work to link them with other resources to help them with their other needs. Each and every one of them is treated with compassion, dignity and respect.

Thank you for your support in this life-saving work.

With gratitude,

Lee E. Elmore
Executive Director



Summer Garden Party Celebration

More than 360 people turned out for North Coast Health Ministry's Summer Garden Party Celebration on Thursday, August 30, 2012, at LaCentre. Proceeds of over \$140,000 were raised through the event, which represents more than 10 percent of the organization's operating budget and will be used exclusively to support the life-saving health care NCHM provides.

The event was co-chaired by Sandy Haas, Kate Joyce and Wendy Kieding. Honorary Chairs were David J. and Martha Hessler. The winning ticket for the Austrian Holiday Raffle was drawn that evening. The winning ticketholder was Cullen Thompson of North Olmsted, Ohio.

At the event, the following awards were presented:

- Community Champion Award: Randall D. Cebul, MD
- Partner Award: The Cleveland Foundation
- Hahn/Hoeffler/Sanders Memorial Award for Outstanding Medical Volunteers: Marjorie Saunders, LPN
- Angel Volunteer Award: Mary Lou Kerr

NCHM's Summer Garden Party Celebration was sponsored by the following individuals, organizations and families:

Advancing Sponsors: Fairview and Lakewood Hospitals; West Side Cardiology Associates, Inc.; Supporting Sponsors: Community West Foundation; First Federal of Lakewood; Louise A. Fletcher; Chris and Sandy Haas; Wendy Kieding; The Nock Family; Carol and Charles Rini, Sr.; Sea-Land Chemical Co.; Leo and Zita Spellacy; University Hospitals; Wegman, Hessler & Vanderburg; Helping Sponsors: Delphine Barrett; Fred and Nora DeGrandis; Lee and Larry Elmore; May P. Gendron; Joyce Buick GMC; Brian and Donna King; The MetroHealth System; Rae-Ann Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Centers; Saint Peter's Episcopal Church; Walter & Haverfield LLP; Caring Sponsors: Tom and Pam Bobst; Curt Brosky and Betty Tereck; Milan G. Busta; Sara and Jim Doan; Ken and Kathy Haber; Hanson Services Inc.; Hospice of the Western Reserve; Howard, Wershbaile & Co.; Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Ohio; Bill and Georgann King; Lakewood Presbyterian Church; John and Nancy Lupo; Adele and Bill Malley; McManamon & Co., LLC, CPAs; Presbytery of the Western Reserve; George W. Quil/FM Global; Don and Dorothy Tomsik; and Mary C. Warren.



How You Can Help:

Make a Gift to NCHM's 2012 Annual Fund

Our 2012 annual campaign is underway. Consider making a gift to help us continue to deliver health care to our low-income neighbors in need without health insurance. All donations are tax-deductible. Return the enclosed gift envelope or make a donation online at www.nchealthministry.org/donate.

Here's how your contribution helps:

- \$50 pays for an adult blood pressure cuff for use in our exam rooms
- \$70 pays for a chronic care physician visit for a patient with a chronic illness
- \$250 provides a month's supply of glucose test strips for 25 diabetic patients.
- \$500 provides inhalers for three patients with asthma

Make a Heart-Warming Holiday Gift

Making a donation in honor of a loved one is a holiday gift idea for that hard-to-buy-for person on your list. We will send you a card to give to the recipient to let them know you've thought of them in a compassionate, thoughtful and generous way this season – by making a donation in their name! By indicating that your gift is in honor of a special someone on the enclosed envelope, we will know to send you a gift card to present to them at gift-giving time. We will also send them an acknowledgment letter letting them know a gift has been made by you in their honor.

Memorial Gifts Make a Lasting Tribute

At the holidays, our hearts always turn back to the special people no longer with us who have made a difference in our lives. Let their families know they are forever in your thoughts by making a memorial gift to North Coast Health Ministry in their name. To do so, let us know who the gift is in memory of and to whom we should send the acknowledgement on the enclosed envelope.

You can also make honorary and memorial gifts online at www.nchealthministry.org/donate

Your gift will save lives.



In your Honor...

North Coast Health Ministry Launches

Patient Navigator Program

NCHM is seeking volunteers for its new patient navigator program. Volunteers will be trained to work directly with current and potential NCHM patients to engage patients as partners in their health care and facilitate the appropriate use of services.

Patient navigators screen individuals for NCHM eligibility, orient new patients about NCHM services, assist patients with applications for related services including pharmacy assistance programs, contact patients for appointments and referral reminders, and assist staff with utilization tracking and reporting.

“Patient navigators are critical to helping uninsured individuals in our community overcome barriers to accessing the care they need,” says NCHM Executive Director Lee E. Elmore. “We could not serve the growing numbers of individuals who come to us for care without the valuable contributions of our volunteers. The patient navigator role will be increasingly important as the health system in our region and in the nation at large continues to evolve.”



To learn more about becoming a patient navigator, contact Volunteer Coordinator Mary Ludwig at 216-228-7878 ext. 122 or via email at mludwig@nchealthministry.org.



The Easiest Way to Give!

To accomplish our mission of providing comprehensive, dependable and affordable quality care to the underserved and most vulnerable members of our community, North Coast Health Ministry relies on diverse revenue sources that will be sustainable.

Whatever your finances allow in the present, everyone has the ability to leave a portion of your estate to NCHM as a bequest in your will. A bequest enables you to manage your assets during your lifetime, while offering an effective and significant way to ensure NCHM’s vital health care serves continue to be available to future generations through your generous support.

If you have already designated NCHM as a beneficiary in your will, please let us know. We would like to include you as a member of the NCHM Hippocrates Society and properly thank you for your commitment.

For more information on how to designate NCHM as a beneficiary in your will, or to let us know that you have already done so, please contact Director of Development Jeanine Gergel at 216-228-7878 ext. 107 or jgergel@nchealthministry.org.

North Coast Health Ministry is grateful to receive technical assistance and support in planned giving from the Community West Foundation.

