



VITAL SIGNS

The Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland

SPRING 2007

First Annual Steven J. Schochet HIV/AIDS Volunteerism Award Recipient: Fran Kalafatis



Fran Kalafatis and Fatima Warren

On the same day that more than 100 people came through the doors of The Free Clinic for HIV testing, Fran Kalafatis, one of our steadfast volunteers, was recognized with the first Steven J. Schochet HIV/AIDS Volunteerism Award.

This award, established at The Free Clinic by the AIDS Funding Collaborative, is given in memory of Steven Schochet who died in 2004 from an AIDS-related illness. Steve was an active member of the AIDS Funding Collaborative for many years and a volunteer at The Free Clinic. The award was created to recognize an individual who significantly impacts the fight against HIV/AIDS through their volunteer activities at The Free Clinic.

Fran Kalafatis has been a volunteer at The Free Clinic for over five years. Fran's continued efforts at The Free Clinic and in our community as a champion of people living with HIV/AIDS is a shining example of how much one person

can do. The staff members who nominated Fran emphasized her compassion for patients, whether in testing, counseling or educating them. Furthermore, her efforts to coordinate educational presentations for Free Clinic staff help us stay well-informed concerning important developments related to HIV/AIDS. As part of the award, Fran received a check for \$500 from the AIDS Funding Collaborative, which she donated back to The Free Clinic. Also present at the award presentation were several of Steve's friends from the Unicorn Motorcycle Club, whom we would like to thank for a very generous donation in Steve's memory on the occasion of Fran's award.

Director of Ohio Department of Health to Speak at The Free Clinic

The Free Clinic, in partnership with The City Club of Cleveland, is pleased to welcome Alvin Jackson, MD to Cleveland where he will be the featured speaker at The City Club luncheon on June 13th. Later that day, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., The Free Clinic looks forward to hosting Dr. Jackson at our facility to discuss critical public health issues.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

Welcome New Board Members!

Ronald L. Copeland, MD, FACS
President and Medical Director, The Ohio Permanente Medical Group, Inc.

Sonja Harris-Haywood, MD, MS
Family Practice Physician, University Hospitals of Cleveland and Assistant Professor, Case Western Reserve University

Carol K. Metz, Esq.
Attorney-at-Law, Weston Hurd, LLC



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Who Knew?

Like many Greater Clevelanders, I had a vague impression of The Free Clinic. I knew its reputation from the early 1970s as a shelter for runaway teens and as one of the first local havens for battered women. I had heard that it was a place where one could go to be tested and treated, anonymously, for sexually transmitted diseases. The word on the street at one time was that people could even take their drugs to The Free Clinic to make sure they weren't adulterated (A friend told me about that – seriously). And, if everyone who "always intended" to volunteer at The Free Clinic actually did so, the place probably couldn't have handled the crowd.

However, what I did not appreciate was the depth of the commitment to the mission of the organization that is evident, in ways both large and small, throughout this community. One local vendor has for years collected donations for The Free Clinic from his movie renting customers. Another tosses in the use of a snow plow over and above his normal services on our campus. A national dental supply company located and installed a refurbished X-Ray machine that has significantly enhanced the efficiency of our Dental Clinic. And, at the culmination of a long-standing arrangement in which St. Vincent Charity Hospital had annually donated hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of lab work, the Cleveland Clinic stepped in to continue this vitally important service. Virtually every month since I joined The Free Clinic team last December, someone has made tangibly clear that the decades of service the organization has provided is both valued and respected.

This reputation is largely a reflection of the contributions of the more than 250 volunteers who provide a wide range of medical, dental, behavioral health and other services

to more than 10,000 individuals on an annual basis. On any given day, one might find a volunteer who has provided medical care from our earliest days, working side by side with a freshly scrubbed medical resident offering compassionate care while also learning to deal with the tangle of life challenges that accompany many of our patients into the exam rooms.

Given the pace of change affecting our local economy and the health care landscape, we will need to quicken our stride if we are to continue to meet the needs of the medically underserved in Northeast Ohio. Consider the following factors that are beginning to impact our service load:

- The increasing number of Greater Cleveland residents who are living in poverty
- The decreasing percentage of physicians offering charity care to uninsured patients (down from 76.3% to 68.2% over the last decade)
- The shrinking number of employers who are providing health benefits to at least a portion of their workers (down to 61% from to 69% since 2000)



Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, Danny R. Williams, Cuyahoga County Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones

- The increasing complexity of the medical conditions that our patients and clients present to us for treatment.

These challenges have prompted our Board and staff leadership into dynamic action. We are launching an endowment campaign, calculated to secure the organization's future for years to come. We are embarking on a strategic planning process, designed to insure that our resources are aligned with the needs of the community. And, we are renewing our Board leadership, welcoming several key new community leaders, Dr. Ron Copeland of Kaiser Permanente, Carol Metz, an attorney with Weston Hurd, LLP, and Dr. Sonja Harris-Haywood, a family practice physician at University Hospitals.

In the coming months, we will share with you our strategies for navigating in this quickly evolving health care environment and our progress in securing endowed funding. Throughout our activities, we pledge to never lose sight of our commitment to providing access, dignity and hope to the hundreds of patients we serve every week.

Danny R. Williams
Executive Director

SAVE
THE
DATE

Free Clinic Fiesta
at Lopez Southwestern Food Club

JUNE 10, 2007

contact (216) 707-3412 or development@thefreeclinic.org for details



CAPITOL NEWS — March, 2007

by Amy Goldstein

As the 110th Congress and the 127th Ohio Assembly get underway, access to health care for the uninsured and the related issues of cost and quality are finally at the forefront of both legislative agendas.

From Maine to California, statewide solutions to provide health care to the growing numbers without health insurance are in various stages of development. The same is true in Ohio, as Governor Strickland moves forward with his proposal to create the “Ohio Health Care Exchange,” a plan that would allow an estimated 300,000 Ohioans to obtain low cost health insurance and provide private health insurance premium assistance for those Ohioans earning up to 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). (For perspective, the 2007 FPL for a family of three is \$17,170 and for a family of four is \$20,650.)

In his first State of the State address, on March 14, 2007, Governor Strickland identified his top budget priorities: 1) job creation; 2) improving Ohio’s public schools; and 3) increasing access to health care for the uninsured. The Governor’s budget proposal includes restoring Medicaid eligibility for working parents from 90% to 100% of the FPL, expanding Medicaid coverage for pregnant women from 150% to 200% of the FPL, expanding eligibility for the State Children’s Health Insurance Program from 200% to 300% of the FPL, and allowing a Medicaid “buy-in” above 300% of the FPL, restoring Medicaid funding for dental services,

independent psychologist, and chiropractic services, expanding of the Passport program for in-home care, and allowing disabled individuals who are able to go back to work to “buy-in” to Medicaid. Collectively, these provisions could benefit over 60,000 Ohioans.

Unless and until these promising proposals become law, thousands will continue to lack access to health care every day. Even with expanded Medicaid eligibility, many individuals will continue to rely upon free clinics and other safety net providers for their medical care. So, in addition to supporting the expansion of health care programs in the proposed budget, we will work with the Ohio Association of Free Clinics (O AFC) and our other partners around the state to secure \$1.7 million over the biennium to enable free clinics to purchase medications for patients and hire staff to tap into existing free pharmacy resources, and to restore the state medical liability insurance reimbursement program and eliminate the original reimbursement cap of \$20,000.

The Governor’s proposed securitization of Ohio’s tobacco settlement funding and his plan, beginning in FY’10, to use this revenue

exclusively for elementary and secondary school construction creates another challenge for free clinics. At current funding levels, the loss of tobacco revenue to The Free Clinic would result in an estimated budget reduction of 13.8%. Fortunately, we have time to educate our lawmakers about the impact of this potentially devastating cut.

As the state budget moves from the House of Representatives to the Senate for consideration, we will convey the urgency of the unmet health care needs faced daily by free clinics and emphasize the ultimate cost to our community if funding for free clinics is sacrificed. We encourage you to contact your state representatives and senators, whether by telephone or mail, to urge them to support the Governor’s budget plans that increase access to health care for the uninsured and to support the free clinic funding priorities outlined above.

If you have questions regarding the advocacy work of The Free Clinic, opinions to share regarding health care policy issues, or are interested in volunteering for our advocacy program, please contact me by phone at (614) 582-1986 or by e-mail at agoldstein@thefreeclinic.org.

Wish List

We are seeking donations of the following items:

- 4 adult regular-sized BP cuffs
- Teaching arm for phlebotomy training
- Wall racks for patient literature
- 4 peak flow meters with disposable mouthpieces
- WaterPik
- Colposcope
- George Foreman Grills (new)
- DVD player and TV
- 2 full-sized refrigerators
- Left-handed phlebotomy draw station

- Liquid nitrogen portable unit
- 2 Purell dispensers
- Insulin
- Current medical textbooks:
 - medical or surgical specialty or subspecialty
 - current general internal medicine, family practice, primary care etc.
- Cloth hospital gowns
- Inexpensive hand mirrors
- Small pillows
- Small clocks
- Soft bristle toothbrushes (new)

- Denture teeth
- Flat bed sheets
- Video Camera
- Shredder
- Mental Health/psychotherapy books (e.g. psychotherapy treatment planner, DSM IV TR, recent PDR)
- Digital camera

All donated items must be in good working condition. The Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland is a 501(c)(3) organization and your donations are tax-deductible.

Please contact Jim Young at (216) 707-3415.

In-Kind Donations – The Difference They Make!

There are many individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations that contribute to The Free Clinic annually in order to insure we are able to provide quality care to our patients. In addition to monetary donations, these contributions often come in the form of volunteer hours and in-kind or pro bono goods and services. Volunteer-related services provided last fiscal year were valued at over \$750,000. We also regularly receive donations of a variety of items (see our “wish list” on page 3) from many sources. In-kind donations help us to provide cost-effective care to our patients and often fill in gaps for items that we may not otherwise be able to afford.

Point-to-Point Communications – Thank You!

Over the past several years The Free Clinic has received very generous in-kind donations from Point-to-Point Communications, a Beachwood based advertising company. Point-to-Point created a moving annual fund brochure three years ago for which they also won the prestigious 2005 National Gold Addy® Award. Most recently, Point-to-Point redesigned and produced our new web site and designed, created and produced this year’s annual fund brochure. Their donated services, estimated at several hundred hours of design and implementation time, provided us with a top notch new web site and a compelling brochure.

Michael W. Hudec, DDS – Thank You!

Dr. Hudec, a Middleburg Heights based oral surgeon, donated a panorex X-ray machine to our Dental Clinic in January. The panoramic X-ray film provided by this machine allows us to see a “panoramic” single picture view of the entire oral cavity, all at one time, simplifying the diagnostic process. The ability to offer this type of x-ray to our patients is significant because previously we only provided an X-ray for teeth that were causing pain and were likely candidates for extraction. Now, with this single X-ray, we are able to treat the teeth beyond those that have brought the patient to our Clinic. We can diagnose other oral problems, such as cavities, during their visit and refer them to our newly expanded daytime Clinic for restorative care.



Doc Opera!

Thank you to all of the medical students and faculty of Case Western Reserve University’s School of Medicine who worked so hard to produce last year’s “Doc Opera: Take Two.”

The \$4,500 in proceeds from this past December’s Doc Opera were donated to The Free Clinic in order to help support the programs and services provided by The Free Clinic. Last year’s show was an energized mix of skits and songs that gave the audience at Lakewood Civic Auditorium a light-hearted glimpse into the high-pressure world of medical school.

CDC World AIDS Day Event



Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, CDC Spokesperson Kimberlin Dennis, and Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

In recognition of World AIDS Day on December 1, 2006, The Free Clinic hosted the Cleveland Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control for a day of HIV testing. This special day, when approximately 108 individuals were tested, started with a press conference touting the message, "Take charge. Take the test."

The press conference began with a welcome from Danny Williams, who was in the midst of his first day as Executive Director of The Free Clinic. Other speakers at the event included Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, who stated, "Today, I am issuing a challenge to all Americans, and specifically African American women who are the fastest growing segment of the population to be infected by HIV/AIDS, to get tested and know your status." The Congresswoman then proceeded to have her own HIV test conducted.

According to the Cleveland Department of Health, HIV was the leading cause of death for African American women in 2002. Furthermore, 60% of the women living with AIDS in the United States are African American and 66% of these women contracted HIV through sex with a man.

HIV tests provided by The Free Clinic are free, confidential and anonymous. The Free Clinic is expected to perform more than 2,500 HIV tests this year.



The Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland is collaborating with Daily Dose of Reading in an effort to promote literacy:

- Teens 13 to 16 can participate in a book club after school on the second Tuesday of each month. Visit www.dailydoseofreading.org or get a flyer at The Free Clinic for more details. Books are distributed at no charge (This project was funded by The Cleveland Foundation).
- A bulletin board in the waiting room offers tips for families about language and reading.
- A new bookshelf in the waiting room holds picture books. Patients are invited to take a book home to a child. (You can bring your gently used children's books to The Free Clinic for use in this program.)
- Teen clinic patients are receiving paperback books from their health care providers.

Daily Dose of Reading is a nonprofit organization that offers pediatric practices, and The Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland, materials and information so health care providers can promote literacy as part of their work with patients. For more information about DDR, go to www.dailydoseofreading.org or call (216) 291-9424 x151.

Area Hospitals Provide Valuable Lab Services to The Free Clinic

A significant need within The Free Clinic is access to laboratory test processing. For the last several years, this service has been provided, free of charge, by St. Vincent Charity Hospital. During this period, St. Vincent Charity Hospital processed over 100,000 lab tests for The Free Clinic.

The cost associated with this service is estimated at several hundred thousand dollars per year. At the beginning of 2007, we transitioned this service to a new provider, the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. We would like to recognize and thank St. Vincent Charity Hospital for their active participation in providing health care to the uninsured in our community; and we would like to thank the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, our new partner, for helping The Free Clinic to provide access to advance our mission.



VITALSIGNS

The Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland is to provide quality health care and related services free of charge to those who lack appropriate alternatives, and to advocate for policy changes that make health care available to all.

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