

Neighborcare Health Steps in to Serve the Underserved



Neighborcare Health at Vashon is Open

When Neighborcare Health was asked to step in and meet a critical need for health care on Vashon Island, we jumped at the opportunity. With a record breaking turn-around, and a tremendous show of support from the Vashon community, we opened Neighborcare Health at Vashon in under two months.

On our first day of service, September 26th, Patients expressed how grateful they were to see a clinic open again close to home. Many people came seeking same-day care, which is understandable due to several weeks without service. It was clear that going off island for a medical appointment is difficult for many. We could not have done it without the partnership of the Vashon community and the hard work of staff members at Neighborcare Health.

We were honored to be asked, and grateful for the opportunity to meet a critical health care need, especially for seniors, families with young children, residents with transportation challenges, and many others for whom traveling off the island for primary care poses serious barriers.

Staff members on Vashon will continue to work to see every patient who wants care. If you hear from people who have questions about clinic services, please direct them to the clinic phone line at 206-463-3671. If you get questions about what insurance plans are accepted at Vashon, please direct those to the billing department at PatientBillingInquiries@neighborcare.org or 206-548-3100.

REACH Nurses Treat Seattle's Homeless



For nearly 20 years, nurses with Neighborcare Health have been providing street outreach to chronically homeless adults in the Seattle area, meeting them where they are in encampments, under bridges and wherever people are sleeping outside. Founded in 1998, REACH is a partnership program between nurses at Neighborcare Health and case managers at Evergreen Treatment Services with a goal to treat Seattle's homeless residents and connect them to health care and addiction services. REACH nurses build trust with their patients by providing on-site wound care and nursing assessments, eventually

working towards bringing them into a clinic for more robust health care and other necessary services. In 2016 alone, REACH nurses provided 749 nursing encounters to 332 patients.

Over the years, REACH has seen many a success stories, including that of K; a 44 year old homeless patient who had recently been diagnosed with an aggressive type of lung cancer. K had been living on the streets for several years without a primary care provider, and up until his diagnosis he was in relatively good health. With the help of his REACH case manager and nurse, K was provided assistance maintaining appointments with his oncologist, and was connected with a primary care provider at Neighborcare Health. His case manager also helped him apply for SSI and navigate social media to reconnect with his family. K's treatment plan consists of several months of chemotherapy, and the REACH team was able to help him with a short motel stay until arrangements were in place for him to be admitted to a medical respite facility. Through his primary care provider, he was prescribed nicotine replacement therapy to quit smoking, which is important to prevent cancer recurrence once his treatment is complete. Although his overall prognosis is guarded, K is hopeful. He is grateful for the support he's received and for the opportunity to reconnect with his family during this challenging time.



A Word from CEO Michael Erikson

Dear friends,

Since the recent election, many of those who support accessible quality health care have asked us for help understanding the potential impact on the Affordable Care Act, community health centers, Neighborcare Health and our patients.

I've looked at analyses from policy and health care advisors from around the country and some consistent themes are emerging, but I cannot yet answer for you how many of the over 20 million people covered under the ACA will continue to be covered once the political process goes through the spin cycle of policy re-making. Ultimately, *until specific policies are proposed or new laws passed, we do not know what the affect will be on funding our services.*

Having said that, I do want to share with you some initial thoughts about what we do know.

I do know that community health centers have grown in our ability to serve the underserved over the last 50 years whoever is in office. Of all federal programs, community centers have worked to ensure a strong bi-partisan support for our funding. The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) and the local Community Health Network of Washington and the Washington Association of Community and Migrant Health Centers (WACMHC) are right now engaged in pursuing policy makers to:

- **Protect** against per capita caps,
- **Improve** legislation to maintain Medicaid Expansion,
- **Educate** Senate and House Finance committees of the value of CHCs in the return on investment that is achieved through our services
- **Advocate** for us and centers like us with adequate funding through Medicaid.

We must not allow ourselves to slip into a sense of hopelessness and helplessness. It is a time to become very active, to advocate for and work to protect the progress we've made for our patients and our communities. You can stay informed on calls to action for Washington state by signing up for alerts with Save Health Care in Washington, and on a national level by signing up with NACHC.

The patients we serve today will need us tomorrow and we stand determined to be there for them during this time of change. We will continue onward with purpose and optimism. I ask that you support each other and let our patients know we will continue to provide a safe health care home for everyone.

Lastly, I would like you to know that **Neighborcare Health will continue to create a place where every person feels safe, welcome and wanted**, as we have done for nearly 50 years. We believe respect is paramount to our work, for our patients and each other. We honor the beauty of what we have in common and the riches of our differences. We believe that healing happens through caring and trust, and will continue to work with our patients, each other and our communities to uphold our values of inclusion and kindness.

As I learn more over the coming days and months about the plans and policies ahead, I will keep you informed. Thank you for your partnership in ensuring access to quality healthcare for everyone in our community.

Sincerely,

Michael

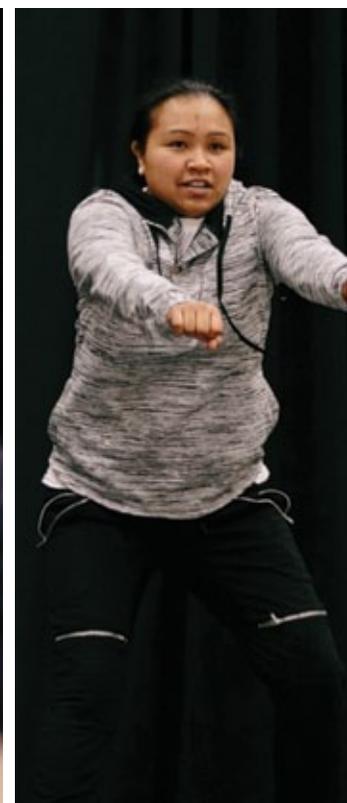


Neighborcare Health Staff Members Join Together to Celebrate and Inspire.

Neighbors | Winter 2016

More than 600 Neighborcare Health staff members came together on September 20, for a morning full of laughter, celebration and inspiration at Seattle Center's Exhibition Hall. During this year's All Staff Meeting, we honored both new staff members and those who have worked for the organization from 10 to more than 40 years.

The big surprise this year was staff members sharing their incredible dancing skills and recognizing their cultural backgrounds. Thank you to those who shared their talents!



Neighbors | Winter 2016

45th Street
Bailey Gatzert Elementary
Ballard Homeless Clinic at Nyer
Urness House
Boren
Central District
Chief Sealth International High School
Columbia City
Dearborn Park International School
Denny International Middle School
Georgetown
High Point
Highland Park Elementary
Homeless Youth Clinic at 45th Street
Lake City
Madison Middle School
McDermott Place
Mercer Middle School
Meridian
Pacific Tower
Pike Place Market
Rainier Beach
Roosevelt high School
Roxhill Elementary
St. Vincent de Paul – Aurora
Van Asselt Elementary
Vashon
West Seattle Elementary
West Seattle High School



As the weather turns cold and wet, our homeless programs are asking for your help. We are seeking the following donations to keep our patients warm, dry and protected this winter.

- Ponchos
- Hand-warmers
- Insoles
- Warm coats
- Socks
- Hats
- Gloves
- Sleeping bags
- Blankets
- Hygiene items
- Mini first-aid kits

If you are able to help, please drop off or mail the following items to
Neighborcare Homeless Programs
c/o 1200 12th Ave S, Ste. 901
Seattle, WA 98144
Thank you for your support.