

YOUR HELP NEEDED To Help High Risk Adults Stay Housed

For the more than 11,000 people experiencing homelessness in our community, finding a place to call home is a constant struggle. Securing an apartment in low-income or supportive housing can be life-saving, yet too often chronic medical, mental health, and substance abuse issues threaten this newfound security.

For these individuals, access to healthcare means the difference between keeping their housing or ending up back on the streets.

Neighborcare Health's Housing Health Outreach Team (HHOT) partners with local housing providers and Seattle-King County Public Health's Health Care for the Homeless Network to provide on-site medical and behavioral health care to chronically homeless individuals living in supportive housing. The individuals served have experienced years, if not decades, of living on the street and are facing the ramifications of a lifetime with little to no preventative care.

All HHOT clinics operate on a walk-in basis so residents can stop by for a quick chat, help with medication, or more extensive medical visit whenever the clinic is open. The HHOT team members also work to engage residents by going door-to-door to introduce themselves and conducting outreach in common areas and when meals are provided.

Care is provided by registered nurses, supported by a team consisting of a doctor, mental health therapist, psychologist, and chemical dependency specialist.

Community support plays a key role in making this work possible, and right now we have an incredible opportunity to support this vital program. The Biella Foundation has pledged to match all gifts to the HHOT program, up to \$15,000.

Please join with other community leaders to help Neighborcare secure the full match and ensure no one is forced to go without the care they need.

Visit www.neighborcare.org today to make your matching gift! Thank you for your support!



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Process Improvement Helps Neighborcare Health Better Meet our Patient's Needs

Among the many teams at Neighborcare Health who bring outstanding care and service to our patients is our process improvement (PI) team. The team consists of four dedicated members who work with front-line staff on a wide range of improvement related projects. Their goal is to help the organization better understand what's currently happening, identify opportunities for improvement, and implement changes.

Since 2009, the PI team has worked on a number of organization-wide projects; including the creation of a prescription renewal center, instituting an improved injection process that meets standard safety checks, and launching an online patient portal (MyNeighborcare).

Over the past year, the PI team has been working to support the organization's model clinic work; a pilot program intended to reduce waste and improve workflow which is currently underway at two of our clinics – Rainier Beach and High Point.

Across the organization, Neighborcare Health staff work to improve the way we care for the people we serve. By engaging staff members who are close to the work and providing regular feedback, the PI team helps Neighborcare improve our systems and ultimately improve outcomes for patients.

Join us on November 8th as Neighborcare Health Presents a Forum on Women's Healthcare.



Please join us on November 8th in the Panoramic Room at the Pacific Tower for a forum on Women's Healthcare. Panelists will discuss a wide range of issues including:

- The successes and challenges surrounding access to contraception at Neighborcare, and work being done in our School Based Health Centers, our Homeless Youth Clinic, and our primary care clinics to make contraception more readily available.
- Pregnancy care at Neighborcare Health, including midwifery and OBGYN, focused on the healthy birth outcomes we're seeing and goals for the future.
- Overall women's healthcare with a focus on vaccinations and cancer screenings among the general and homeless youth population.

When: Doors will open at 3:00pm with a light reception. Panel discussion to begin at 3:30pm.

Where: Pacific Tower, Panoramic Room
1200 12th Ave S, 8th Floor, Seattle, WA 98144.

RSVP: Contact Ashley Martin at ashleym@neighborcare.org or (206) 548-3049.



Neighborcare Health Opens a New School-based Clinic on Vashon Island

Neighborcare Health is proud to announce the opening of a new school-based health center (SBHC) on Vashon Island. Beginning in the fall of 2017, students will have access to an on-site health clinic offering medical care as well as behavioral health counseling and visits from Neighborcare's mobile dental unit. Funding for this initiative comes from King County's Best Starts for Kids levy, designed to build healthier, safer schools and neighborhoods.

"These new [health] centers will be a wonderful resource to reach young people where they spend so much time – at school!" said Patty Hayes, Director of Public Health – Seattle & King County. *"The centers deliver critical health services that they need and are a proven strategy to improve student health as well as academic achievement."*

According to the Journal of Adolescent Health, young people who have access to mental-health care at their school are 21 times more likely to meet with a provider than adolescents whose only access is outside of school.

Neighborcare Health at Vashon Island High School will join our 12 other school-based health centers. These clinics provide evaluation and treatment of acute and chronic issues, sports physicals, health assessments, reproductive/family planning health

care, STI screening and treatment, immunizations, health education, mental health therapy, crisis intervention, laboratory testing, and dispense common medications as needed.

All of our SBHCs are open during school hours, and each one is staffed by a clinic coordinator, a nurse practitioner or physician assistant, and a mental health therapist, all of whom are trained to work with youth and underserved populations. Appointments are available before and after school, and every effort is made to ensure students miss as little class time as possible.

The goals of our SBHCs is to increase students' healthy behaviors and reduce risky ones by providing culturally sensitive, non-judgmental, youth-friendly care that includes positive social development support. Our SBHCs strive to accomplish these goals by being located in schools and providing care to any student who walks through our doors, regardless of ability to pay. By having SBHCs located within schools, students can easily access an additional level of health education and expertise that the schools would otherwise be unable to provide.

Neighbors | Fall 2017

45th Street

Bailey Gatzert Elementary

Ballard

Central District

Chief Sealth International High School

Columbia City

Dearborn Park International School

Denny International Middle School

Georgetown

High Point

Highland Park Elementary

Lake City

Madison Middle School

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

Vashon Island High School

West Seattle Elementary

West Seattle High School



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**OCT 3RD
5:30 - 10PM**

To make a gift to provide health care to those who have difficulty accessing care, send your donation in the enclosed envelope, call us at 206.548.3260, or donate online at www.neighborcare.org.