

# Axis Community Capsules

Community Health Education, Prevention & Treatment

FALL 2007

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Spotlight on Axis' CEO

## Sue Compton Takes Over Axis Helm



CEO Sue Compton, B.S.N., M.H.S.

On November 1, 2007, Sue Compton, B.S.N., M.H.S. assumed her new role as Axis Community Health's CEO, succeeding Ronald Greenspan, who retired.

Sue joined Axis (then Valley Community Health Center) in 1981 as family planning coordinator. She became director of administrative services in 1983 and assistant director in 1987. She held that position until 1999, when she left the organization for a brief time, returning in 2001 as associate executive director under Mr. Greenspan.

As Associate Executive Director, Sue's responsibilities have included all aspects of program development and management; financial responsibilities such as budgeting, grant writing and reporting; contract and personnel management; and community relations responsibilities.

While Associate Executive Director, Ms. Compton managed all contracts, serving 14,000 persons and providing 100,000 patient/client visits annually. Other notable accomplishments included creation of Axis Community Health's Strategic Plan and the raising of \$2.6 million in support of the organization. She also generated the concept and funding for Axis' Livermore clinic expansion project and the Women's Clinic, which is scheduled to begin operation in late 2009. *(continued on page 2)*

## Carol Beddome Named New Development Director

Carol Beddome, well-known in the Tri-Valley for her work with Open Heart Kitchen, will join Axis Community Health on December 3, 2007 as development director.

Before entering the nonprofit sector, Ms. Beddome worked in sales and management in the high-tech industry, working for such companies as Wyse Technologies, Acer America, Inc., Sun Microsystems, Inc. and Netiq Corporation. In 2002, she made the transition to nonprofits "looking for work that matters", a growing trend among high tech professional women.

During her two years as executive director at Open Heart Kitchen, the only free hot meal service in the Tri-Valley, Beddome increased the meal count from 120,000 to 178,000, annually. She developed the agency from a grassroots, start-up organization to a premier organization with three distinct operating businesses and an operating budget of \$500,000. She accomplished all this while reducing overall costs for the meal programs.

"Over the past few years, Carol has become very well known and respected in the community and we feel very fortunate that she has chosen to come to Axis," says CEO Sue Compton. "We welcome her enthusiastically and anticipate attaining some important goals with her help."



Development Director Carol Beddome

## Contact Us

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Pleasanton & Livermore  
(925) 462-1755

Mental Health Services  
Adults, Children, Families  
(925) 201-6240

Substance Abuse  
Counseling  
(925) 201-6240

Teen Drug &  
Alcohol Recovery  
(925) 201-6201

WIC  
Women, Infants, Children  
Supplemental Nutrition  
Pleasanton  
(925) 462-2365

DUI  
Court & DMV  
Ordered Classes  
(925) 556-2520

Community Health  
Education  
(925) 201-6013

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(925) 201-6056

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(925) 201-6017

## Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors is consumer driven and representative of the community.

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## Foundation

The Axis Community Health Foundation works to enhance community support for our services.

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Sue Compton

## Advisory Board

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## Sue Compton Takes Over Axis' Helm *(continued from page 1)*

"The next few years promise to be very busy at Axis," Sue says. "The number of people we are serving continues to increase rapidly, as we are enrolling more than 200 new patients each month. To keep up with this growth, we are building and strengthening our infrastructure-although our limited resources make this a challenge!"

"Our staff is currently busy preparing for the implementation of a new practice management system, which is scheduled to go live in March. This will greatly improve our internal operations, many of which we currently perform manually. What our patients will see is less time on the phone trying to make an appointment, less time at the registration desk when they check in, and an improved reminder system when it is time to come back for a checkup."

As Axis' advocate for health and wellness in the Tri-Valley, Sue has worked with Human Services Commissions, Chambers of Commerce and community organizations and established working relationships with Tri-Valley cities, Alameda County, Community Health Center Network, Alameda Health Consortium and local foundations. Recently, she was appointed to Congressman Gerald McNerney's Health Advisory Board.

Sue earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) degree from Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, and her Master of Health System Leadership (M.H.S.) from the University of San Francisco. She and her husband have resided in Pleasanton, Calif. since 1988 and have two sons.



## Farewell to Ronald Greenspane

In February of 2000, Ronald Greenspane accepted the position as interim executive director of Valley Community Health Center (now Axis Community Health) for a six-month period. On November 1, 2007, nearly eight years later, he bid us farewell as he departed for his new retirement home in Lincoln, California. Before he left, we reminisced with Ronald and asked some of the questions that have been on the minds of his colleagues at Axis. Following are excerpts from that conversation.

### *What do you consider your greatest accomplishments during your time here?*

- 1) "Surviving the first three years, stabilizing the organization and recreating the credibility that Valley Community Health Center had enjoyed for many years prior to the period of turmoil."
- 2) "Building a solid finance department and senior staff. You've done your job if you have a solid staff that does its job."
- 3) "During the past 18 months, we've moved from centralized leadership where I was involved in most decisions to decentralized leadership where each department acts autonomously and makes appropriate decisions. It's been magnificently successful."
- 4) "The local birthing program we have with Tri-Valley OB/GYN. Our patients, many of whom are dependent on public transportation, no longer have to travel to Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Berkeley to deliver their babies, but now deliver their babies locally."
- 5) "The expansion of our Livermore medical clinic. We can better serve the community with twice the number of examination rooms, increased staff and extended hours."
- 6) "The writing and implementing of two strategic plans by the Board and staff and the acquisition of the NextGen Practice Management system that will increase the organization's efficiency exponentially."

### *What have been the major challenges you have faced?*

“Aside from struggling to regain financial stability, the major challenge was regaining the support of the Tri-Valley cities and non-profit organizations during the first few years. We made some unpopular decisions in order to survive as an organization.

“In addition, we had to overcome some staff apprehension. We cut staff from 123 to 89 persons in the first months. Obviously, those kinds of decisions caused angst and fear among staff, but it had to be done in order to keep the organization viable.

The good thing is that we seldom think of those days now and the battles we once fought daily to survive. The organization has moved far beyond those difficult times and, frankly, we don't have time to dwell on that dark chapter in our history. We're too busy keeping up with the need for our services and developing additional ways to serve the community.

### *What about retirement? What's in store for you?*

“My wife, LuAnn, and I plan to do some traveling. We'd like to go to South America and, perhaps, see Ireland and the rest of Europe.

We'll play a lot of tennis and some golf and I may even take some classes in mathematics and physics, which have long been interests of mine.”

### *Any parting thoughts as you leave Axis?*

“Sue will be a wonderful leader. She returned to the organization shortly after I arrived and has been an important part of the resurgence of this organization. The staff is cohesive. Everyone respects and is comfortable with one another and gets along. I see nothing but positive things for Axis as it continues to serve the community with intelligence and a dedication that is second to none.”



Ronald Greenspane



## AROUND AXIS Medical Clinics

We are pleased to announce that Shaida Behnam, MD is our new Associate Medical Director and that Satyasree Konda, MD, Board-certified internist, is now full time at Axis.

Clinic hours are 9AM - 5PM, weekdays, with the Pleasanton clinic remaining open until 9PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the Livermore clinic open until 9PM on Mondays and Wednesdays.

## WIC

WIC will offer a class on meal planning in November and December, in addition to monthly classes on good nutrition and physical activity.

We are excited about the new food package, aimed at achieving healthier outcomes among the WIC participants, to be implemented by the California WIC Program in 2009. Five key changes will be included: more fruits and vegetables, increased whole grains and fiber, fewer sweetened juices, less whole milk, eggs and cheese, and added incentives for exclusively breastfeeding mothers.

## Mental Health Counseling

We welcome our new MFT intern, David Augustine.

## Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Recovery

Jeremy Ostrander was a guest speaker at Foothill High School's kick-off Red Ribbon Week on October 22.

Our Adolescent Prevention Team (Program Director Debra Eberhart, Adolescent Counselor Amie Sousa, and Adolescent Intern Erin Cassady) is participating in a pilot program with The Parent Project, a program designed to help equip parents of behaviorally and academically at-risk adolescents.

Program Director Debra Eberhart is working with Horizon Family Counseling in Livermore to expand her existing evidence-based curriculum, Keepin' It Real, for at-risk students. Reports from Horizon have been numerous and extremely positive.

## DUI

We welcome our new intern, Angie Politzer, who began this month. We are currently considering interviewing candidates from CalWorks' job placement program.



*Our friends and supporters, the Pleasanton Kiwanis Club, toured the Axis campus on October 12.*



*At the Clinic Appreciation Dinner in August, the Community Health Center Network and Axis Community Health presented awards to four people for their exemplary service to Axis: (l-r) Award recipient Shaida Behnam, MD; Award recipient Barbara Lewis; Award recipient Bella Mello; CFO Joe Flaberty; Award recipient Arthbur Daye; IT Director Brian Castro; and CEO Sue Compton.*

## Thank You for Your Generous Donations

Paul Renard    \$500

*To purchase video camera with tripod*

Vic Lelaurin, Farmers Insurance    \$500

Pleasanton Kiwanis Club    \$100

*To purchase two Woods Lamps*

First Presbyterian Church in Livermore    \$1000.00

Art & Pat Wilen    \$50.00

Louise C. Johnson    \$25.00

William Berck    \$25.00

Stephen Elliott & Kim Risedorph    \$100.00



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