

Spotlight on FQHC Funding



Corey Cutler, N.P. tends medical clinic patient.

In March of 2009, Axis Community Health was designated a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) New Access Point and was awarded a \$1.3 million grant, over two years, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We were one of just 12 community clinics state-wide that were chosen to provide medical care to an additional 80,890 Californians. For Axis, that meant serving an additional 4,000 patients and increasing our capacity to provide mental health and substance abuse services as well as medical care. Three-quarters of the way through the funding period, we offer this "spotlight" as an update to the community.

We have, indeed, increased our capacity to serve patients at our Pleasanton and Livermore clinics and are adding an average of 400 new patients each month. We now offer extended hours for appointments four evenings a week (two evenings at each clinic) and on Saturdays. We see patients in general medicine every Saturday, pediatrics two Saturdays and Women's Health one Saturday a month.

Patients are charged for medical and behavioral health services on a sliding scale. With the FQHC designation, healthcare is more available because patients are offered more access points to care, depending on their level of insurance coverage. Of the 4,000 new patients we have seen since March, 2009, only 2,091 were uninsured. The remainder had some level of insurance coverage or were eligible for a government program.

The Axis staff has increased to 120-130 providers and support staff. "If we had more space, we would be able to hire more providers and see more patients," says Axis' Director of Clinical Operations Christina McFadden. "At this time, we are at maximum capacity at every facility. We do plan to move medical records to another location to free up clinic space for same-day appointments, hopefully by next summer.

Despite our "bursting-at-the-seams" situation, this is an exciting time at Axis. We are confident that our FQHC status will be renewed and with that will come the authorization to apply for capital improvement funding. Obviously, we have increased our patient numbers substantially and, with a larger facility, we will be able to offer more services and continue to increase access to healthcare. There are still many more people to be served."



Dr. Rei Masui examines an infant.

contact us

Medical Care

Pleasanton & Livermore
(925) 462-1755

Mental Health Services

Adults, Children, Families
(925) 201-6240

Substance Abuse Counseling

(925) 201-6053

Teen Drug & Alcohol Recovery

(925) 201-6201

WIC

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

DUI

Court & DMV
Ordered Classes
(925) 201-6244

Community Health Education

(925) 201-6013

Eligibility & Enrollment

(925) 201-6056

Administrative Offices

(925) 201-6017

visit us on the web
www.axishealth.org

board of directors

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

James Paxson, *Chair*

Mark Eaton, *Vice-Chair*

Aida White, *Secretary*

Bert Brook, *Treasurer*

Odalis Bigler

Yolanda Brown

Yolanda De Santillan Arias

Thelma Fones

Adenise Medeiros

Gladys Montalvo-Campo

Farzana (Farzi) Najeeb

foundation board

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

Becky Yeffa, *Chair*

Bob Brown, *Vice Chair*

Barbara Will, *Secretary*

Bert Brook, *Treasurer*

Donna Bratton-Kearns

Faye Cater

B. Penny Woods

Sue Compton, *CEO*

CEO's Note



Sue Compton

I wonder how many of Axis' supporters, friends, clients and patients realize how valuable our dedicated and talented Board of Directors is to our organization.

Community health center boards differ in a unique way from those who serve other nonprofits or businesses. For us, federal statute requires that at least 51% of our directors must be users of our health centers' services. Though that requirement could be construed as restricting, I view it as extremely positive. It guarantees that people who actually use our services have significant input as to how those services are delivered. Who better to tell us what we're doing right and where improvements should be made? Who better to shape our organization to ensure that it meets the needs of our community? We are grateful to this group for their commitment to Axis and for devoting precious time to help us deliver services effectively.

The terrific group of Axis clients and patients who serve on the board is complemented by others who are leaders in the community as well as experts representing all aspects of business - legal, financial, education, marketing, etc. All in all, our board, led by Hacienda Park General Manager James Paxson, is a well rounded group of individuals who meet the challenges of running Axis with intelligence and dedication.

Recently, two board members and I attended Board Boot Camp in Dallas where we met with board members from community health centers nationwide to share information and discuss issues common to all of us – shrinking resources, rapidly increasing patient numbers, and so forth. It was energizing because all of us grapple with the same issues and are eager to help each other. Most gratifying was learning that we are on the right track! We look forward to attending the Boot Camp with the complete board next year and gaining more knowledge and insight from our colleagues across the nation.

As we know, the big challenge that lies ahead for the Axis Board of Directors is our capital campaign and fundraising for our new facility. I am grateful in the knowledge that they are up to the task and excited about getting started. Stay tuned for more news about that in the coming months and, meanwhile, have a healthy and happy year's end.

thank you! thank you!

Your generous donations are appreciated!

Perry Acupido
Harry-Todd & Lydia Lopez-Astrov
Betty Bleicher – In memory of Sandy English
Brent Chaney – In memory of Sandy English
Karen Inkelis
Mr. & Mrs. John Shirley
Gary Taylor
Tri-Valley Unity Church
Arthur & Patricia Wilen

Frank A. Hunter, PhD

With sadness, Axis acknowledges the recent passing of Frank A. Hunter, PhD. A member of our Board of Directors for the past three years, he grew up in the United States and Venezuela and was retired and living in Livermore at the time of his death. Frank cared deeply about making health care available to all members of the community. We will miss him.

Visit our website at <http://axishealth.org>

Make Your New Years Plans Now!

Time to get out your party clothes and sparkly accessories! Gather your friends and neighbors to support the children of our community at the gala New Years Eve Ball at the Mall. The premiere holiday event will take place at Stoneridge Shopping Center on Friday, December 31, 2010 from 9 PM - 1 AM.

The 2010 New Years Eve Ball at the Mall is presented by Pleasanton North Rotary and will benefit four organizations serving children: Axis Community Health, Dublin Partners in Education, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education and The School of Imagination.

The gala dance party event, for adults over 21, will feature a live band, DJ Brad Kinney of Brad Kinney Productions as Master of Ceremonies and spinner of recorded music, and a piano bar for those who enjoy quieter entertainment. Cocktail food and several no-host bars will be situated at various locations throughout the Mall's common areas and complimentary champagne in commemorative glasses will be served to toast the New Year at midnight.

The event is being led by Pleasanton North Rotarians, Bill Wheeler, CEO of Black Tie Transportation and Mitch Sigman, Co-Founder of School of Imagination and Happy Talkers. "There is nothing more important than the education and health of our children," Sigman says. "The New Years Eve Ball at the Mall will be a fun and festive opportunity to help our children while celebrating New Years with friends and neighbors, safely and close to home."



Inviting you to join them at the New Years Eve Ball at the Mall are (l-r) Pleasanton North Rotary President Brian Damiani; Axis CEO Sue Compton; PPIE Executive Director Debi Covello; Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman; and Rotary event co-chairs, Mitch Sigman, co-founder of School of Imagination and Bill Wheeler, CEO of Black Tie Transportation.

"Stoneridge Shopping Center, with a capacity for thousands and already beautifully decorated for the holidays, stepped up with enthusiasm when we approached them to host this benefit for the community. Everyone wants to be involved. You can really feel the excitement!"

Tickets to the New Years Eve Ball at the Mall are \$75 each. VIP tickets are \$100 and include priority registration and cocktail service. Tickets may be purchased online at <http://theballatthemall.org> and at the Information counter in the Stoneridge Shopping Center main concourse area. More details about event activities and volunteer opportunities are available by contacting Event Chair Mitch Sigman at (877) KIDS-TLC (543-7852) Ext 718.



Speedier Vision Screening for Diabetics

A significant boost to our ability to serve our more than 1,000 diabetic patients is Axis' acceptance into the California Healthcare Foundation (CHCF) Expanding Diabetic Retinopathy Screening program, which strives to reduce vision impairment from diabetes. Participation in the program means that CHCF will provide us with a retinal imaging camera, access to software that stores and shares images, technical assistance by UC Berkeley Optometric Eye Center, and access to additional tools that support implementation.

Currently, Axis refers diabetic patients to Highland Hospital in Oakland for retinopathy screening. The high volume of patients screened at Highland often results in a wait time of a year or more for screening. Having our own on-site camera will allow for screening of 100% of identified patients, enabling immediate referral for those needing treatment and resulting in improved care outcomes.



Meet Dr. Bhumika Kamath, Family Practice physician, who recently joined the staff at our Livermore clinic. PHOTO BY BELLA LUNA STUDIOS

Be greener! Sign up to receive Community Capsules electronically at <http://axishealth.org>

Axis Welcomes Valerie Jonas



Valerie Jonas

We are delighted to welcome Valerie Jonas who joined us during the summer as Axis' new development director. Though she has been with us just a few short weeks, we already feel certain that her energy, experience and commitment to healthcare for all will enhance Axis' fundraising efforts greatly and will bring strong support to our agency.

Valerie is a graduate of Duke University and has worked as a development and marketing professional for several non-profit organizations in the Bay Area, focusing on community board-driven projects and fundraising campaigns. Most recently, she served the Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay as Regional Director of Contra Costa, Tri-Valley, and Tri-City for three years. Previously, she was project consultant to the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center during the Bankhead Theater development. Valerie worked in the healthcare field earlier in her career as senior writer for Mount Sinai Medical Center Foundation in Miami and as Communications Director for Pennsylvania Health Care Association.

"Accessible and affordable healthcare is a critical component of a successful community. We have a special community here in the Tri-Valley and I think we want to be sure we are everything we can and should be," Valerie said. "Given my past work in healthcare and other professional roles, I think I can make a real contribution as development director at Axis at a very critical moment."

"Axis is experiencing rapid growth that requires good development planning and execution. As we expand our fundraising efforts with foundations and community philanthropists, we will, hopefully, deliver both what the community wants and what the community needs."

Valerie notes that the idea that Axis is well funded now that it has the FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center) designation is a false perception. In fact, federal funding falls far short of Axis' current need and the gap will expand greatly as more people come to rely on community health care due to economic trends and changes brought through healthcare reform.

"We will need to build Axis' capacity and cover growing operational costs within challenging timeframes," Valerie said. "But organizations and communities frequently rise to and even surpass their goals when the momentum gets underway. I love what I do – helping to make change happen in the community – and I am thrilled to be doing it at Axis."

PHOTO BY BELLA LUNA STUDIOS



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Friday, December 31, 2010

Stoneridge Shopping Center, Pleasanton

Presented by Pleasanton North Rotary

NEW YEAR'S EVE



Live Music
Piano Bar
Premium No-Host Bar
Champagne at Midnight
Souvenir Glass
Hors d'oeuvres & More!

Benefiting the Children of our Community

Axis Community Health • Dublin Partners in Education
Pleasanton Partners in Education • School of Imagination

More info and tickets at www.theballatthemall.org