

Spotlight on General Medicine

Thanks to a generous grant from our friends at Palo Alto Medical Foundation, the reception and waiting area of our general medicine clinic in Pleasanton has a fresh new look. The Foundation, a division of Sutter Health, donated \$100,000 toward the renovation of the space, which opened in early September.

Over the summer, two former waiting rooms were completely gutted and combined into one, more spacious, area. The reception area was revamped for increased efficiency. The restrooms were remodeled so that, at last, one is now ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant.



(L to R) Front Desk Receptionists Jackie Sevilla, Yesenia Villalpando and Patient Services Representative Erika Navarro at the remodel-in-progress of the General Medicine reception area.

"The wonderful thing is that the Palo Alto Medical Foundation came to us, asking how they could help improve our site," said Axis CEO Sue Compton. "Then, our Board President, James Paxson, connected us to Hacienda Park architectural firm AAI who donated the project design. The result is a beautifully redesigned space – new cabinets, fresh paint, new colors, and a bright, welcoming area to greet our patients when they come to the clinic."

new year's eve

BALL at the MALL Save the Date for New Year's Eve Ball at the Mall

We invite all our friends, neighbors and supporters to join us for the first-ever New Year's Eve Ball at the Mall. The gala holiday event will be held at Stoneridge Mall, on Thursday, December 31, 2009 from 9:00 PM - 1:00 AM.

The best part, aside from all the festive New Year's Eve fun? All proceeds will benefit four Tri-Valley-based "safety net" organizations: Axis Community Health, The School of Imagination, Tri-Valley Haven and Valley Humane Society.

The New Year's Eve Ball at the Mall activities will be held throughout the common mall areas, and will feature a rock and roll band, Double Funk Crunch (DFC) at one end of the mall, country music by California Cowboys at the other and a piano bar near Nordstrom. In addition, activities like midway games, bocce ball and a casino will entertain in other mall areas.

Refreshments will be available throughout the mall and several no-host bars will serve soft and alcoholic beverages. Complimentary champagne in commemorative glasses will be served to toast in the New Year at midnight.

"Several local nonprofits have talked about hosting a combined fundraiser for some time," said Axis CEO Sue Compton. "With a weak economy and widespread budget cuts hitting all of us very hard this year, we agreed that the time is definitely right to make it happen. Stoneridge Mall stepped up with enthusiasm when we approached them, and we are now busy planning for a truly festive and fun New Year's Eve event. Many more exciting details are to come in the next few weeks."

(continued on page 2)

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.

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foundation

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

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Sue Compton, *CEO*

Save the Date for the New Year's Eve Ball at the Mall *(cont.)*

The New Year's Eve Ball at the Mall is open to adults 21 years and older. Tickets are \$75 each and may be purchased online at <http://theballatthemall.org> or at the Information counter in the Stoneridge Mall main concourse area beginning October 15, 2009. More details about event activities, sponsorships, and volunteer opportunities will be available soon at <http://theballatthemall.org>.

About the hosting organizations:

Axis Community Health provides medical care, mental health counseling, substance abuse recovery, and nutrition services for all members of the Tri-Valley community. The School of Imagination offers families educational, developmental and enrichment services to ensure that their young children's individual needs and true potential are discovered. Tri-Valley Haven provides shelter and services to victims of domestic violence, operates the Sojourner House homeless shelter for families and runs The Haven Food Pantry. The Valley Humane Society provides educational outreach and collaborative programs that enrich the bond between people and companion animals and eliminate unnecessary euthanasia.

“Young Voices for Recovery” Teen Essay Contest

During September, Axis will again host a Young Voices for Recovery Teen Essay Writing Contest. The purpose of the annual contest is to recognize teens for their achievements in seeking drug and alcohol treatment services and to celebrate their successes.

The topic for the 2009 contest is “What impact has long-term recovery had on your life, either through your own experiences or that of a person close to you?” Contestants between 13 and 19 years of age are invited to submit essays of 250-500 words. Typewritten submissions are preferred and photos may be included, but are not required.

Entries are due October 2, 2009 and will be evaluated on outstanding personal acts and how they have positively impacted others. A panel of judges will select the winners, to be announced on the Axis Community Health website on October 15, 2009 in our Winter/Spring 2010 newsletter. The first place winner will receive \$500. A second place prize of \$150 and a third place prize of \$50 will be awarded for use as scholarships to further their education.

Contest information is available by contacting Amie Sousa at asousa@axishealth.org. Contestants may pick an application at Axis Behavioral Health, 6666 Owens Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588 or may call 925-201-6201 to request one by mail.

Contestants may submit their essays to Amie Sousa by email, mail or in-person and must include their name, address, phone number and photograph (optional). They should indicate if they give permission for their names and photos to be published.

“Our first Young Voices in Recovery contest last year generated very positive results and helped raise awareness of how important it is to make treatment accessible and support those in recovery,” says Amie Sousa, Axis Teen Drug and Alcohol Recovery Program Manager. “The contest is an effort to provide a forum where teens can share their real stories of long-term recovery. I’m sure the essays we received last year inspired others to ask for help in improving their own lives and, in turn, the lives of their families and the community as a whole.”

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

Teen Males Anger Management Series Scheduled

A ten-week Teen Males Anger Management series will begin on Monday, September 21, 2009. The series is open to young men between the ages of 13 and 18 years who are enrolled in high school.

The sessions will meet on ten consecutive Monday afternoons from 4:00-5:15 p.m. through November 30, 2009, except for November 23 during the Thanksgiving break. Classes will take place at the Axis Behavioral Health facility, 6666 Owens Drive in Pleasanton, Calif.

The Anger Management Program is designed to help teens address conflicts constructively. It includes education and group counseling designed to help participants:

- Feel in control
- Handle anger positively
- Improve relationships
- Resolve conflicts
- Reduce stress

The program fee is \$300, with a \$150 deposit due before September 21, 2009. Scholarships for low income youth may be available upon request. Interviews with the participants and their parents must be scheduled with counselor Amanda Goletto and will take place during the week of September 14-17, 2009. Amanda may be contacted at **925.201.6213** or agoletto@axishealth.org.

This program is appropriate for those who have been referred by the courts or by social service agencies, and it is also available for youth when they or their parents recognize that their behavior or emotions are becoming difficult to control.

Axis also offers a 26-week Anger Management Program for adults. Enrollment in the adult series is ongoing and groups are single gender. Fees charged on a sliding scale based on income and family size. More information is available at <http://axishealth.org>.

CEO's Note



Sue Compton

Despite the challenges of a shaky economy and budget cuts, we are still here, doing our best to meet the growing need for care in our community. In the past ninety days, we have enrolled more than 1,000 new patients—which tells us that our services are needed more than ever.

Meeting the needs of our community isn't without its challenges—we are facing a projected \$600,000 cut in funding this fiscal year. Some of the programs that have had significant funding cuts include:

- Monthly Saturday morning immunization services
- Breast Cancer Early Detection Program
- Healthy Families Program
- Comprehensive Youth Services (counseling for at-risk youth)

Other developments that impact us dramatically are the 10% decrease in reimbursements for Medi-Cal visits, a stagnant County Medical Services Program (CMSP), and cuts in the family planning program.

Since one-third of our patients are covered by Medi-Cal, the 10% decrease equates to a loss of \$150,000 annually. In addition, Medi-Cal eligibility requirements are changing so that many of our Medi-Cal patients will no longer be eligible for the program. Thus, we will receive no payment for their care. The Expanded Access to Primary Care program, which once provided a safety net for nearly 800 patients, has been cut by the state, which is another \$37,000 loss for us.

Our County Medical Services Program contract with Alameda County has rolled over from last year, but with no increase. Last year, this contract covered just 5,550 visits and we provided an additional 700 visits that were not reimbursed. At the rate we are enrolling new patients right now, the deficit for this year is bound to be much greater.

Reimbursements from Family PACT, our family planning program, have been cut, which will take approximately another \$100,000 out of our budget.

Although we were fortunate to have received \$650,000 in federal stimulus funds, it, in fact, comes with the requirement to serve 4,000 **more patients**. We'll need to pull some rabbits out of some hats to accomplish that and cover our costs.

We're not going anywhere, but it goes without saying that we need the support of the community more than ever. While we wait for the economy to recover, we'll continue to do the very best we can with what we have.

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

thank you! thank you!

Penny Acupido	\$25
Harry-Todd Astrov & Lydia Lopez Astrov	\$300
Walter & Sandra Harvey	\$245
Jeanette King	\$50
Gary Knowles	\$30
Louise Johnson	\$25
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Home Campaign	\$460
Paul Renard	\$50
Soroptomist International of Livermore	\$1,500
Tri-Valley Unity Church	\$173.66
Anonymous	\$100
Total:	\$3,408.66

Bras for the Cause



An energetic team from Axis participated with 400 other walkers at the 4th Annual Bras for a Cause fundraising walk in May. They raised more than \$110,000, which was donated to Axis' Women's Clinic and the San Francisco Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

Saturday Immunization Clinics Discontinued

Due to a cut in funding from the State of California, Axis' Saturday morning immunization clinics for children have been discontinued. Immunizations will continue to be available by appointment by calling **925.462.1755**.



Administrative Offices
4361 Railroad Avenue • Pleasanton, CA 94566
925.201.6017 925.201.6200
www.axishealth.org

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SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, December 31, 2009

Stoneridge Mall

NEW YEAR'S EVE

BALL
at the
MALL

A Benefit for:

Axis Community Health • Tri-Valley Haven
School of Imagination • Valley Humane Society