



Clinic

Spring 2014

Connection

The Affordable Care Act and Its Effect on LAFC

Whether you've supported the Clinic from its humble beginnings in 2001 or you're a more recent supporter, it's likely you're wondering about our future in light of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the degree to which we'll continue to need your support.

While our management and board would love to assure you that we know exactly the direction we're headed, like you, we're struggling as we navigate the ever-changing health care landscape.

What We're Doing

We are committed to complying with the new law and, likewise,

making every effort to help our patients comply as well. Since last October, every patient seen in the Clinic has been advised that they must visit the Health Insurance Marketplace to determine their eligibility for health insurance under the ACA. For patients needing assistance applying for coverage through the Marketplace, we've collaborated with insurance agent Rodney Brown to guide them through the application process, recommend the best plan for their needs and follow through with the enrollment process. And, for patients we believe are eligible for Medicaid, we've partnered with two social services agencies to help them navigate through the application process.

Concurrent with those efforts, Clinic management and board members are participating in a consortium of free clinics in southeast Wisconsin to exchange information, stay apprised of changes affecting all of us and thoughtfully implementing strategies that work in our unique environment.

What We're Finding

A number of our patients qualify for some level of premium subsidy under the ACA, but just as medical conditions are unique to each patient, so are their experiences in pursuing health care coverage. However, some

(Continued, next page)



Mary Reich (l) and Donna Voigt (center) present Chris Both with the Betty and Bernie Schumacher Award

And the 2013 Schumacher Award Goes to...

...**Chris Both** for her exceptional dedication and commitment to the Lake Area Free Clinic. In addition to volunteering at the Clinic, Chris is a member of the Clinic's board of directors and chairs its fundraising committee; and, for the past four years, has chaired our very successful annual Gala, which in 2013 raised more than \$104,000.

The Schumacher Award – now in its fourth year – is named for Dr. Bernie and Betty Schumacher in recognition of their vision and dedication to the creation, development and success of the Lake Area Free Clinic.

We extend our hearty congratulations to Chris and thank her for generous service.



One Patient and One Application at a Time

With this issue of Clinic Connection, the Clinic shines its "Volunteer Spotlight" on Judy Derozier.

After having retired from a 43-year career in nursing, Judy approached the Clinic four years ago with the question, "Where can my skills be best used?" It didn't take long for Executive Director Mary Reich to find a place for her.



Volunteer Judy Derozier

Working with Mary every week for the past four years, Judy has been managing the Clinic's Patient Assistance Program (PAP),

completing paperwork and working with pharmaceutical companies across the country to secure the medications desperately needed by our patients – all at no cost to the Clinic or to our patients. As a result of her efforts, more than \$55,000 (that's right, \$55 thousand) of medications are provided to Clinic patients each month -- over and above the average \$9,000 the Clinic pays monthly to local pharmacies to provide medications to patients. Without PAP, the \$640,000 of free medication received in 2013 would

The Affordable Care Act and LAFC

(Continued, from front page)

have successfully navigated the enrollment process and found the affordable coverage that will help keep them healthy. To be sure, questions remain about the ability of those who successfully enroll for affordable Marketplace coverage to pay for the high deductibles that are features of some plans.

What We Know with Certainty

Some may question the Clinic's role in the community with the advent of health care reform.

have caused the Clinic's operating budget to more than double. So, what does Judy like best about her job? As you'd guess, it's "the people – those in need, who are so very grateful; and those who are so generous and so eager to help."

If you'd like to explore volunteer opportunities, please call **Mary Reich at 262-569-4990**. You may be surprised at all the ways we can put you to work! In the meantime, kudos and many, many thanks to Judy!

However, it has been projected that 29 million people will remain uninsured nationwide. We know the need for free clinics will still exist even after full implementation of the ACA. We will continue to address the needs of the uninsured with respect to affordability and accessibility to health care – and we will need your support to continue to serve each and every patient who qualifies. As we're in this together, we pledge to keep you informed.

Year-End Appeal Exceeds Goal

Thank you so much for helping us meet – and exceed – our year-end appeal goal and end our fiscal year in the black.

Our appeal campaign theme – "Help. Give. Hope." -- was particularly poignant. With prescription drug costs on the rise* and more than 5,500 patient visits last year, the Clinic's needs are great. It is only through the generosity of people like you that we are able to continue to meet our commitment to sustaining a healthy community.

With gratitude for your kind and caring support, we renew our promise to you to continue to be good stewards of your generous gifts.

**As an example, in the past six months, the cost of a single vial of insulin has gone from just over \$100 to \$310; some patients require multiple vials monthly. Similarly, the rise in generic drugs has also skyrocketed.*

LAFC Continues to Support Patients with New Services

Believing as we do that serving the "whole patient" will result in a healthier, thriving community, we are pleased to announce two new programs that have been added to our list of services.

The first of these is the result of a grant received from the Oconomowoc Area Foundation to fund a Wellness and Nutrition program. Under this program, patients will be referred for education and support for specialty diet, weight

Board Welcomes New Directors

We are pleased to announce that Linda Moroney and Roger Rindo have joined the LAFC board of directors.

Linda is a Certified Public Accountant and an attorney with Drinker Biddle Health



Linda Moroney

Care in Milwaukee, where she provides tax and corporate advice to nonprofit and health care institutions and other tax-exempt organizations.

Roger Rindo was appointed as district administrator of the Oconomowoc Area School

District in 2013, prior to which he served as the district administrator of the Tomahawk School District.



Roger Rindo

They replace retiring board members Kim Sneller and Mark Zwaska, both of whom made valuable contributions to the board. We are sincerely grateful for their service and wish them continued success.

For a complete roster of board members, visit our website at www.lakeareafreeclinic.org.

management and exercise, stress management, smoking cessation and other lifestyle changes, all integrated with their medical care. The program is designed to prevent the need for future treatment, reduce medication and avoid complications from conditions such as hypertension, high cholesterol or diabetes. Dr. Rania Dempsey, an internist specializing in Lifestyle Medicine, has volunteered as the program's developer.

LAFC has also partnered with Waukesha County Community Dental Clinic in a trial program to treat the dental hygiene needs of our diabetic patients. WCCDC, like LAFC, is a nonprofit organization that offers our patients dental cleaning, digital X-ray diagnostic services and other related services. Dental hygienist Patty Hooper manages the program and coordinates patient care with community network dentists. Volunteer dentists provide diagnostics and screening in the clinic.



NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MILWAUKEE, WI
PERMIT NO. 4053

www.LakeAreaFreeClinic.org

856B Armour Road
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Mission is to provide high-quality free medical services to those who are uninsured and unable to pay.

...it's "the people – those in need, who are so very grateful..."



*Mark Your
Calendars*

- ✓ **Friday, May 2** –
LAFC Alumni Reunion at the Clinic
- ✓ **Friday, May 30** –
Summer Stage at Lapham Peak
State Park, Delafield
(all proceeds benefit LAFC)
- ✓ **Saturday, September 6** –
LAFC's Annual Gala at
Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc

**Have a Charitable
Gift Looking for
a Home?**



Your gifts (birthdays, anniversaries, memorials, gifts under will) are always welcome at our address –
www.lakeareafreeclinic.org.