



Children's Health Fund

Impact



Spring-Summer  2011 Edition

More Kids Gain Access with NY Program Expansion New Center and Mobile Dental Clinic Bring Critically-Needed Health Care Services to Children and Families

Aesha Desquine's goals for her children are basic: "For them to be healthy and strong individuals, to be independent, to have their own voices and be able to deal with any challenges and struggles that come their way, to handle day-to-day life, to be empowered and learn from their experiences."

In short, Aesha wants her children to grow up to be resilient, "which basically means to have the ability to overcome adversity," says Dr. Angela Chan, Director of the **Children's Health Fund's Center for Child Health and Resiliency** (CCHR), an expansion of CHF's South Bronx Health Center.

The new Center - built **thanks to funding from private and public partners** including the Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will see children through age 21—and for those ages 0 to 5, it also offers a paradigm-shifting approach to care that actively promotes "protective factors" that can change the trajectory of their lives, regardless of the challenges and adversities they face growing up in the Bronx.

"Our families have an added layer of stress because of poverty and the increased environmental challenges they face," she says. "The stress could be potentially toxic and actually disrupt a child's brain development and negatively affect all long-term outcomes – social, emotional, physical, academic, occupational." It is on the development of those protective factors that Dr. Chan and the health and mental health teams are focused.

"Being a parent can be a very lonely and stressful experience under the best of circumstance," she continues. "Couple that with the fact that you may not yourself have had a nurturing experience when you were young,



ACCESS GRANTED: Leadership from Children's Health Fund, Montefiore Medical Center, and the new CCHR, along with city officials, open the new Center at a ribbon cutting ceremony in the South Bronx on May 23, 2011.

The new Center for Child Health and Resiliency expands the capacity of CHF's South Bronx Health Center by 50%, enabling over 8,200 patients to receive critical ongoing, comprehensive care.



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More Kids Gain Access *(continued)*

which is a common thread in our community. One of the goals of the CCHR is to really support them and help increase their capacities and confidence as nurturers and the first teachers of their children.”

Patrice, a mom-to-be, was definitely in need of nurturing when she showed up for her first prenatal visit. She was more stressed out than she had ever been before, living in a homeless shelter with her husband and two young sons.

“Being in a shelter was really rough and I was scared that the stress on me would affect my baby,” Patrice says. “I had seen a lot of other women who had given birth in there and their babies developed nervous conditions and all kinds of things. They were agitated and frail.”

“Thank goodness I came to the South Bronx Clinic,” Patrice goes on. That’s where she met Barbara Hackley, nurse midwife and Co-Director at the new CCHR. “She explained that I could still nurture and protect my baby, even in that setting, before it was born. She taught me about the importance of ‘from the beginning.’ That’s when the brain starts developing. I knew how to take care of a baby physically, but as far as how it develops emotionally, I had no idea. Before I thought, ‘This isn’t real until my stomach gets big and the baby starts kicking.’ Now I knew I had to start taking care of my baby from the beginning, because if you don’t, that’s where problems start. I started putting myself in places where it was calm, without a lot of arguing and upsetting things. I kept away from people who smoked or had a lot of drama. If I was tired, I rested. I started eating better. Things that I didn’t think were important became important to me, because it was all about the baby.”

Awareness and education about the findings of child development experts are two key components of the CCHR’s new initiative, not just for parents but providers as well. Intensive training of the entire CCHR staff about communicat-

ing the importance of social-emotional development is planned, along with the expansion of a unique model of care.

Patrice concludes, “I’m a better person and a changed mom – a better mom – because of what I learned here.”

SPREADING SMILES

Another much needed addition to the Children’s Health Fund fleet of mobile clinics also rolled into the neighborhood in May 2011...



a new mobile dental clinic for the New York Program that will bring essential oral health care to the doorsteps of New York City’s homeless family shelters and the South Bronx community.

The new mobile dental clinic addresses a critical need, as the risk for dental decay is increased in low-income populations due to limited access to care and inability to afford dental services. The mobile dental team, led by our newest team member, pediatric dentist Dr. Manali Kanitkar, will travel to 13 homeless shelters and provide comprehensive services including preventive dentistry for children and adults; digital x-ray, oral exams and cleanings; fillings (restorative dentistry) and dental work; referrals for extensive dental care; and outreach and oral health education.



The New York Program’s Dental Program aims to increase access to comprehensive dental care for nearly 2,000 low-income, underserved children and their families annually.

From the Desk of Irwin Redlener, MD

March 2011 marked the one-year anniversary of the signing of the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act. And while the passage of this law represents society's call to action to improve the health and well-being of all Americans and extend care to the most vulnerable among us, there is significant work to be done.

Children's Health Fund recently released a white paper that estimates 34% of children continue to experience barriers to accessing critical health care services. That is 16.9 million children with existing insurance coverage who still do not receive adequate health care due to high out-of-pocket costs; limited number of physicians, dental and mental health care professionals; lack of provider participation in the Medicaid program; rising rates of chronic disease in underserved populations; and difficulty arranging transportation.

Our organization, with your support, will continue to speak up for children in order to prevent any weakening of the provisions intended to help them get improved access to the care they greatly need, as well as protect existing programs such as Medicaid.



News From the Network: Plaquemines Parish, LA

Dr. John Carlson, a pediatrician and asthma/immunology specialist with our **New Orleans Children's Health Project and Plaquemines Parish site**—a program site started after the BP Oil Spill of 2010—recently shared this story with us:

“For Plaquemines Parish resident, Marie*, helping to keep her son Sam's* asthma under control was difficult. Although Marie was employed, she was not able to afford health insurance for her children. Subsequently, Sam's asthma was not properly managed, causing frightening outbreaks that made breathing extremely difficult.

A few months ago, Marie discovered our clinic outside of the school where she works and learned that her child could receive care, regardless of her ability to pay. After bringing Sam to the clinic, I was able to get Sam on an 'Asthma Action Plan,' give him proper medication, and help Sam and Marie understand what was triggering Sam's asthma outbreaks. As it turned out, we also discovered Sam had severe allergies after providing him allergy testing and treatment.”



** Patient name changed in order to protect privacy. Patient in the photo is not the patient represented in the story.*



For more stories about our programs, providers, and patients, check out our blog at:
www.childrenshealthfund.org/blog

CHF to Benefit from Major Concerts & Live Events

Through a new partnership with **Tickets-for-Charity**, fans of music and sporting events have an easy way to purchase high demand seats that have sold out at the box office at face value, plus make an automatic donation directed to Children's Health Fund (CHF). **Check out www.ticketsforcharity.com!**

"It's an amazing opportunity to get great seats at the same price or better than you'll find elsewhere – while also benefiting an important cause like CHF," said Carol Sumkin, CHF Senior Vice President of Development.

One of the summer's highlights, Katy Perry's California Dreams Tour, will be generating thousands of dollars for CHF. "We're thrilled that Katy Perry has selected us as one of the beneficiaries of her tour, and that her fans can add their support," said Ms. Sumkin.



A portion of all purchases made through Tickets-for-Charity for the North American leg of Katy Perry's tour will support CHF's national fleet of mobile clinics, which provide comprehensive health care to extremely vulnerable children.



Thank You for Keeping Us Rolling...

Children's Health Fund (CHF) would like to recognize the following supporters for their outstanding commitment to children's health care. Major gifts of \$25,000 and above from July 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010. *(This does not include special events gifts.)*

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Robin Hood was one of the Children's Health Fund's very first donors, supporting one mobile medical clinic staffed by Co-Founder Dr. Redlener. Today, with Robin Hood's investment, CHF's New York City Programs now consist of three mobile medical clinics and a mobile dental clinic serving 13 homeless shelters, three health centers in the South Bronx and a school-based program in Harlem, serving over 10,000 patients annually.

Growing evidence suggests that pediatric visits offer an opportune time for primary care providers to reach adult family members in need of services, thus promoting the health of the entire family. Based on these findings, CHF launched the Family Preventive Care Pilot Project. Pediatric teams in New York City will develop systems to engage adult family members, so that they, like their kids, are up-to-date on immunizations and receive preventive health services. We would like to thank **Pfizer** for underwriting this initiative.

CHF launched mobile medical services in the Gulf Coast five days after Hurricane Katrina...and, we are still there today. This is possible in part because of the investment made by the **Irene W. and C.B. Pennington Foundation**. Their leadership support enables thousands of children impacted by natural and public health disasters in Baton Rouge and across the nation, to receive quality, ongoing medical and mental health services.