



Beyond Hospital Walls:

Highlights of N.J. Hospitals' Community Outreach Programs, 2000-2005
AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS

HRET

HEALTH RESEARCH AND
EDUCATIONAL TRUST OF NEW JERSEY

A non-profit affiliate of the
New Jersey Hospital Association



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PREFACE

The Health Research and Educational Trust of New Jersey (HRET), a nonprofit affiliate of the New Jersey Hospital Association, is pleased to offer this addendum to its recently released resource, *Beyond Hospital Walls: Highlights from the HRET Community Outreach Awards, 2000-2005*. Included in the addendum is a description of hospital community programs that were established by hospitals throughout New Jersey between 2000 and 2005. These programs were submitted as entries for HRET's Community Outreach Awards and won an award from HRET's annual Community Outreach Awards Program.

The Community Outreach Award was founded on the belief that the partnerships between a hospital and its community are necessary to build and sustain health. The development of integrated "community care networks" enables hospitals to collaborate with communities to emphasize prevention and minimize illness. Through hospital community outreach programs, the infrastructure is created to bring about changes needed to attain improved health and well-being for the community.

NJHA is committed to proactively guiding hospitals and community leaders to develop partnerships addressing needs of their community members. HRET established the Hospital Award for Community Outreach activities in 1991 to recognize hospital-initiated programs that demonstrate prospective identification, creative response, active collaboration and successful fulfillment of community needs. HRET's Community Outreach Award Program seeks to publicly acknowledge hospital-community collaborative efforts leading to the development of a shared vision of health.

This resource is available both in print and online and it is being distributed to all New Jersey hospitals. We hope this collection of successful, award-winning community programs will help hospitals learn about efforts being conducted throughout the state and encourage hospitals to consider replicating these programs or expanding their own programs in order to better serve their communities.

If you have any questions, need information, or would like an additional copy, please call the HRET Research Department at 609-275-4145.



GARY S. CARTER, FACHE
President and CEO
New Jersey Hospital Association

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Health Research and Educational Trust of New Jersey and the New Jersey Hospital Association would like to extend their deep appreciation to all the New Jersey hospitals that have reached beyond the walls of their institutions, focusing their attention on the well-being of the greater community. HRET is especially grateful to those who submitted entries to the Community Outreach Awards Program, and would like to recognize the award winning programs for their efforts to address major healthcare issues in our communities.

HRET would further like to acknowledge the contributions of NJHA's Communications and the Design and Print departments for their editorial review, artwork and production of this addendum. We also extend our sincere thanks to Jennifer Barrett, HRET Research Department staff, for her hard work and high standards in preparing summaries of the award-winning programs in a timely fashion.

INTRODUCTION

*H*RET's Community Outreach Awards are granted on an annual basis in an effort to recognize hospital programs that address major healthcare issues through community partnerships and innovative programs or services. Such partnerships are essential to assess and fulfill community needs, build healthy environments and bring about changes to improve the health of New Jersey residents.

This resource is an addendum to the resource book, *Beyond Hospital Walls: Highlights from the HRET Community Outreach Awards, 2000-2005*, which is a collection of community programs that were established by hospitals throughout New Jersey between 2000 and 2005, and submitted as entries for HRET's Community Outreach Awards. This addendum, produced by the Health Research and Educational Trust of New Jersey, the New Jersey Hospital Association's nonprofit affiliate, includes a description of hospital community programs that were established between 2000 and 2005 and won an award from HRET's annual Community Outreach Awards Program.

The award winning programs included in this resource are presented according to the year of the submission of their entries to the HRET's Community Outreach Award Program and their selection as winners. Entries in each year are arranged by award categories of that year. A short description of each program and its accomplishments, as well as its most recent contact information, is included if you need more information about a specific intervention.

We hope this addendum will serve to showcase New Jersey hospitals' award-winning community programs, help spread valuable information about these programs and raise awareness about their innovative interventions. The addendum will also showcase the hospitals' community partnerships and collaborative efforts planned and implemented to improve the health and well being of their communities. This collection of successful community programs will help hospitals learn about efforts being conducted throughout the state and encourage them to develop plans to replicate these programs or encourage ideas for development and implementation of new and innovative community programs and services. Such continued efforts on the part of hospitals will ultimately result in healthier communities throughout the state.

FIROOZEH VALI, PH.D.

Assistant Vice President of Research

New Jersey Hospital Association/HRET

2005 Awards

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AWARD CATEGORY: IMPROVING ACCESS AND QUALITY OF CARE

HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS

The Healthy Congregations project was established to improve access and health outcomes of the community, particularly the increasing minority and immigrant populations, by identifying those at risk for chronic illness; ensuring that high-risk populations received needed services, including transportation and medications; and ensuring treatment was provided regardless of income level. To accomplish these objectives, project staff partnered with parish nurses in the community as well as with the Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center, the Women's Health and Counseling Center and the Resource Center for Women and Their Families. The parish nurses served as case managers in their places of worship and screened individuals for eligibility for government sponsored health programs. They also linked them to healthcare and financial services and referred them to Somerset Medical Center for further evaluation and follow-up care. Services at the hospital were extended to weekends and evenings, with bilingual staff to serve as interpreters. From 2002 to 2004, the Healthy Congregations project served more than 2,100 patients.

SUBMISSION DATES: 2003, 2005

CONTACT:

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Somerset Medical Center

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Keywords: Access, Healthcare; Chronic Illness; Faith-based Partnerships; Interpreters; Minority Groups

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AWARD CATEGORY: IMPROVING ACCESS AND QUALITY OF CARE

VILLAGE INITIATIVE

The Village Initiative was implemented to manage the needs of the "juveniles on probation" population in Passaic County, of whom an estimated 85 percent had unmet medical needs. The

program was implemented in collaboration with the Paterson Police Department, Passaic County Superior Court, citizens, faith-based organizations, public schools, social service agencies and juvenile probation and parole officers. Through this health improvement partnership, a medical team, including a social worker, police officer and juvenile probation officer, conducted home visits to further assess the home environment and healthcare needs of juvenile probationers, provided appropriate health education and information, facilitated referrals to healthcare providers and addressed their urgent healthcare concerns. Thirty-five percent of all home health visits resulted in either a healthcare referral or a referral to another social service agency; and, from 1998 to 2004, probation violations were cut in half and reoccurrence rates dropped from 37 percent to 5 percent among juveniles who received visits.

SUBMISSION DATE: 2005

CONTACT:

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St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center
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E-MAIL: koegelb@sjhmc.org

Keywords: Access, Healthcare; Adolescents/Teenagers; Criminal Justice Partnerships; Health Information Dissemination; Home Visits; Social Support/Services

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AWARD CATEGORY: IMPROVING ACCESS AND QUALITY OF CARE (HONORABLE MENTION)

CLOSING THE HEALTHCARE LOOP

Overlook Hospital's Department of Community Health recognized the need to complement its routine community screenings with an initiative that reaches out to those in the community with limited access or other barriers. The department then connects participants to medical treatment and services if needed. The project is aimed at improving follow-up by those with abnormal results. Closing the Healthcare Loop used Overlook's Health Avenues van and grant funding to travel to senior centers, schools, recreation departments, libraries and community events to conduct a round of screenings and educate participants. For those with abnormal results, staff provided counseling and contacted their PCP or connected them to services for the uninsured, including program partner Community Health Center at Vauxhall. Area physicians were contact-

ed and asked to prepare for follow-up care within a week and Overlook Community Health staff contacted patients later to follow up.

SUBMISSION DATE: 2005

CONTACT:

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Overlook Hospital

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E-MAIL: joyce.passen@ahsys.org

Keywords: Access, Healthcare; Health Resources Information; Mobile Health Services Vehicles; Screening, Medical

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AWARD CATEGORY: PREVENTING DISEASE AND INJURY

CHOOSE THE HIGH FIVE LIFE

Choose The High 5 Life was designed as an educational campaign to promote healthy and safe behaviors in five high-risk areas by creating a message that had broad-based appeal to children of all socio-economic backgrounds. The take-home message of the program, which targeted children between the ages of 3 and 12, centered on wearing protective gear during sports activities, choosing not to smoke, Internet safety, the benefits of exercise and the importance of helping others. This collaborative effort included "Partners for Health," a total of 23 agencies, including healthcare providers, schools, municipalities, social services and community organizations, which provided sites for program events and helped to spread the message. Southern Ocean County Hospital developed and produced the educational and promotional materials, such as frisbees, magnets and printable resources, and designed an evaluation tool to monitor the program's impact and give teachers and community leaders an opportunity to provide feedback. Over the course of two years, there were 41 educational outreach events, which reached over 10,000 children, nearly 2,000 parents and 81,600 households.

SUBMISSION DATE: 2005

CONTACT:

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Southern Ocean County Hospital

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Keywords: Children and Families; Prevention, Disease/Injury; Risk-Taking Behaviors; Safety Education

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AWARD CATEGORY: REDUCING HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES

THE DIABETES OUTREACH PROGRAM

Mountainside Hospital's Diabetes Outreach Program was designed to screen and educate the large Hispanic populations in the Clifton community at high risk for diabetes. Goals included identifying individuals who were either pre-diabetic or diabetic; reducing risk factors for developing diabetes; providing broad-based linguistically and culturally appropriate education and resources; enhancing and reinforcing diabetes self-management skills; preventing or prolonging the onset of serious complications in those diagnosed with diabetes; and assisting individuals in receiving access to necessary medical care. Through a bilingual counselor, participants were educated about diabetes at community social gatherings and religious functions and were given vouchers to shop for healthier food. Collaborators included the Clifton Health Department, the Clifton Hispanic Association, Community Action for Social Affairs and local churches.

SUBMISSION DATE: 2005

CONTACT:

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Keywords: Diabetes; Disparities, Healthcare; Minority Groups

2004 Awards

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AWARD CATEGORY: IMPROVING ACCESS AND QUALITY OF CARE

HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM: MOBILIZING HEALTHCARE FOR THE IMPOVERISHED

This program was a collaborative effort to improve the quality of life for the homeless, impoverished and immigrant population. Although a variety of programs existed for the homeless population ranging from basic short-term shelter and meal programs to more in-depth rehab, literacy and education programs, there was no formal approach to providing and integrating basic healthcare services. As a result, primary care was often sought on an emergent basis through hospital emergency departments for conditions that should have been treated much sooner and were more acute in nature. A mobile van, staffed with an advance practice nurse, a Spanish translator and a driver brought healthcare directly to the vulnerable population. The van provided protection from the elements and was equipped with an examining room and the necessary supplies. Some of the services offered included diagnosis and treatment of acute illness/injury, evaluation for referral to appropriate resources throughout the community, enhancing awareness of preventive health screenings, follow-up care post emergency department or inpatient hospitalization and distribution of essential supplies such as winter clothing, toiletries, etc.

SUBMISSION DATES: 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004

CONTACT:

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Keywords: Access, Healthcare; Homeless Persons; Interpreters; Low-Income Population; Minority/Immigrant Populations; Mobile Health Services Vehicles; Screening, Medical; Substance Abuse; Uninsured, Medically

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AWARD CATEGORY: *PREVENTING DISEASE AND INJURY*

PROJECT HEALTHY BONES

Project Healthy Bones was an osteoporosis exercise program designed to help preserve bone mass and reduce the risk for fracture in older adults with low bone density. A partnership of the Saint Barnabas Osteoporosis and Metabolic Bone Disease Center, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, this program trained 615 volunteer "peer leaders" throughout the state and provided them with manuals and videotapes. These leaders hosted 146 weekly classes at 91 community sites where they demonstrated exercises and provided the more than 2,000 participants with the knowledge and encouragement necessary to carry out a complete osteoporosis healthcare plan. The outcome of the project was substantial progress in exercise level and in the amount of weight lifted as well as improvements in self-esteem and well being and increased calcium intake.

SUBMISSION DATE: 2004

CONTACT:

Susan Allison, RN, Nurse Educator, Osteoporosis and Metabolic Bone Disease Center
Saint Barnabas Medical Center, Ambulatory Care Center
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Keywords: Aged; Osteoporosis; Physical Fitness; Prevention, Disease/Injury

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AWARD CATEGORY: *REDUCING HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES*

CARITAS CONNECTION PROJECT

In 1993, the City of Passaic's minority population accounted for more than 77 percent of its residents, predominately from Mexico. The majority was uninsured, afraid of hospitals and many were "undocumented." Assessing the needs of the population indicated that the number one need was to learn English, followed by health education in Spanish and access to health services without getting in trouble with immigration. The program began offering ESL tutorials and formal ESL classes. Both had a health education component, and free health screenings were conducted monthly. Other programs

offered include prenatal classes, health education in schools and day care centers, the opening of St. Mary's Family Health Center and family literacy. The staff was made up of two Sisters of Charity, one Sister of St. Joseph, two Associate Sisters of Charity, one Hispanic volunteer outreach worker and one Polish outreach worker. Both outreach workers were from the surrounding community.

SUBMISSION DATES: 2000, 2004

CONTACT:

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St. Mary's Hospital

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PHONE: 973-470-3147 ■ **FAX:** 973-470-3472

Keywords: Children and Families; Health Information Dissemination; Literacy/ESL Programs; Minority/Immigrant Populations; Prenatal Care; Screening, Medical

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AWARD CATEGORY: *REDUCING HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES (HONORABLE MENTION)*

BREAST HEALTH OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Overlook Breast Health Outreach Program for African-American and Latino women was developed to connect with community groups and educational and religious institutions to reach more of the Latino and African-American population. The program applied a culturally sensitive, community-based approach to outreach, development of community partnerships and training of volunteers. The goals were to promote breast health education and awareness, increase early breast cancer detection and treatment, promote empowerment and increase professional and peer support. Educational sessions included information on the importance of breast self-exam, clinical breast exam and mammography and physician referral information was distributed. Outreach workers helped the women make the original appointments and then drove them to Overlook Family Practice to see a physician. To further enhance knowledge and awareness, Spanish language pre-tests and post-tests were created for workshop participants. The pre-test acted as a needs assessment and the post-test indicated that the attendees had learned more about the importance of breast exam and mammography.

SUBMISSION DATE: 2004

CONTACT:

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*Keywords: Cancers/Neoplasms; Disparities, Healthcare; Health Information Dissemination;
Minority Groups; Screening, Medical; Transportation; Women*

2003 Awards

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AWARD CATEGORY: *PROGRAMS FOR MOTHERS AND/OR CHILDREN*

NEWARK HEAD START DENTAL SCREENING

The Department of Dentistry at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center provided a dental screening and treatment program for Newark Head Start children as a step to improve the health of the impoverished inner city, predominantly minority children. With grant funding, this program used a video and puppet show to educate three- and four-year-old children about dental hygiene, conducted dental exams, distributed take-home packages that included a quality toothbrush and information for parents and provided parents with exam results. Head Start nurses followed up with parents to ensure further treatment was sought if needed. From 1997 to 2002, more than 10,000 children were screened at Head Start sites.

SUBMISSION DATE: 2003

CONTACT:

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*Keywords: Access, Healthcare; Children and Families; Dental Care; Health Information
Dissemination; Low-income Population; Minority Groups*

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AWARD CATEGORY: *PROGRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY*

IVY HILL PRIMARY CARE PROGRAM

Irvington General Hospital responded to a request by Jewish Family Services of MetroWest and developed a comprehensive, culturally sensitive program to address the healthcare and social service needs of the 200 elderly homebound Soviet émigrés living at the Ivy Hill Park Apartments in Newark. Due to their life experiences, this population was mistrusting of authority, including medical personnel and many suffered from depression and failing health. With grant funding, the program provided case management, medical services and transportation. A Russian speaking case manager identified, assessed and referred patients to the program, served as a link between patient and physician and assured compliance with medical instructions. She also provided support groups, educational seminars and assistance with accessing social services. The Russian speaking physician and an advance practice nurse who were hired, were aware of the fears, cultural biases and "home remedies" of these patients; and the APN provided home visits when necessary. Van transportation to and from the hospital for all medical services was provided using a hospital-employed driver.

SUBMISSION DATE: 2003

CONTACT:

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Keywords: Access, Healthcare; Aged; Health Resources Information; Home Visits; Interpreters; Minority/Immigrant Populations; Social Support/Services; Transportation

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AWARD CATEGORY: *PROGRAMS FOR POPULATIONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS*

VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE OF CAPE MAY COUNTY

Burdette Tomlin Memorial Hospital established an independent community clinic to serve the primary healthcare needs of the medically uninsured and underinsured residents living and working in Cape

May County. These individuals could not afford private health coverage and did not qualify for existing medical programs such as Medicaid and Medicare and included single mothers, newly-arrived Hispanic immigrants, grandmothers raising children and seasonal workers between jobs. The all-volunteer staff of 10 doctors, eight APNs, 48 RNs, six pharmacists and 10 other medically trained personnel, both retired and actively practicing, provided comprehensive preventive and primary care services and connected patients to other agencies to address their social needs. Community volunteers assisted in other needed services and administrative work. Individuals and businesses in the community provided support through financial contributions and material and labor donations. Within one year, the clinic provided more than 1,100 visits to patients from all 30 towns in the county.

SUBMISSION DATE: 2003

CONTACT:

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Keywords: Access, Healthcare; Low-Income Population; Minority/Immigrant Populations; Uninsured, Medically

2002 Awards

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AWARD CATEGORY: *PROGRAMS FOR MOTHERS AND/OR CHILDREN*

THE NEW JERSEY CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROJECT

A collaborative effort of Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, the Children's Health Fund and Schering-Plough Corporation, the New Jersey Children's Health Project brought much-needed access to medical care for the underserved children of Essex and Union counties. The project used a 35-foot, fully equipped mobile health van. The van improved access to care for children who otherwise had no means of transportation to a doctor's office or a hospital, and it included two full private treatment rooms and monitors for patient education. A Children's Hospital of New Jersey pediatrician, nurse, medical technician and driver staffed the van and provided asthma treatment, immunizations, physical exams, sick visits, treatment of chronic and acute illnesses, WIC referrals, lead screenings, tuberculosis testing, NJ FamilyCare enrollment assistance, vision screenings

and more. From 1998 to 2001, the project served more than 4,000 children.

SUBMISSION DATES: 2000, 2002

CONTACT:

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Newark Beth Israel Medical Center

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Keywords: Access, Healthcare; Children and Families; Mobile Health Services Vehicles

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AWARD CATEGORY: *PROGRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY*

SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

The Senior Companion Program was a part-time service project that provided assistance and friendship to the frail and chronically homebound elderly who are often living alone and at risk of institutionalization. Senior citizen volunteers age 60 and older were organized to visit homes throughout the city of Camden region to provide help with chores, light housekeeping, errands, paperwork and other activities. In some cases companions offered respite for family members, identified crime/safety problems and helped to free up costly resources such as physical therapy and home healthcare. Senior Companions strengthened their clients' capacity to live independently and regain self-esteem.

SUBMISSION DATE: 2002

CONTACT:

Rosemary Richardson, Project Director, Senior Companion Program

Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center

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E-MAIL: richardsonr@lourdesnet.org

Keywords: Aged; Homes Visits; Social Support/Services; Support for Independent Living

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AWARD CATEGORY: PROGRAM FOR POPULATIONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

THE ARC PRIMARY CARE AND DENTAL CENTER

Kimball Medical Center recognized the need to care for the medical and dental requirements of the developmentally disabled members of its community. It was often difficult to find medical and dental care that was responsive for this special needs population. The hospital approached ARC of Ocean County about offering primary medical and dental care for its disabled clients. The Kimball Manchester Ambulatory Care Center offered medical, educational and rehabilitation services such as physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. The care center also provided laboratory and radiological services, decreasing the need for multiple site visits. In addition, disabled patients came to the Neighborhood Health Center to receive dental care and information to enhance their dental health. The need for education crossed over to the caregivers as well, and ensured that proper dental procedures and care were being followed.

SUBMISSION DATES: 2001, 2002

CONTACT:

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Keywords: Access, Healthcare; Dental Care; Health Information Dissemination; People with Disabilities

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AWARD CATEGORY: PROGRAMS FOR POPULATIONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (HONORABLE MENTION)

OVERLOOK HOSPITAL'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Combining forces with a regional YWCA, the Union County Prosecutor's Office, local police departments and its parent, Atlantic Health System, Overlook Hospital developed an integrated and comprehensive domestic violence outreach program to identify victims of domestic abuse and provide them with support and intervention services to help interrupt the cycle of family violence. The program educated hospital staff and conducted workshops at schools, churches and other community groups to broaden understanding of domestic violence; established a

2001

Domestic Violence Response Team of trained community volunteers to provide 24-hour outreach; and provided direct 24-hour social work services to victims, free of charge, at the hospital. During 2001, the program provided information to 800 community residents and counseled more than 200 victims of abuse.

SUBMISSION DATE: 2002

CONTACT:

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Keywords: Criminal Justice Partnerships; Domestic Violence; Victims, Abuse/Crime

2001 Awards

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AWARD CATEGORY: *PROGRAM FOR MOTHERS AND/OR CHILDREN*

TEENHEALTHFX.COM - AN INTERACTIVE TEEN HEALTH EDUCATION WEB SITE

TeenHealthFX.com was an interactive health education Web site targeted toward teenagers ages 12 - 18. The Web site's main objective was to meet the prevention and healthcare needs of Northern New Jersey's adolescents, particularly those who did not have access to transportation to a doctor's office or a health clinic. The Web site provided a reliable, confidential and anonymous voice that helped to empower adolescents to become responsible for their own health. It also gave them the confidence to access medical, mental health and other support services. A health educator with a master's in Public Health coordinated and managed all Web activities. In addition, a panel of doctors and experts affiliated with Morristown Memorial Hospital reviewed each question on the Web site and provided accurate information in a language that adolescents could comprehend. During the first 16 months, the site had more than 28,000 visitors.

SUBMISSION DATES: 2000, 2001

CONTACT:

Lisa Picciuti, Web Site Social Worker and Health Educator

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Keywords: Adolescents/Teenagers; Health Information Dissemination; Mental Health; Social Support/Services

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AWARD CATEGORY: PROGRAMS FOR MOTHERS AND/OR CHILDREN (HONORABLE MENTION)

THE SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM

The Health Services Program provided school-based health clinics in three elementary schools and one high school in Newark's south ward. The primary healthcare needs of students included primary medical and dental care and care for asthma and vision needs. In addition, the program provided nutritional counseling, group and family counseling, substance abuse prevention and crisis intervention services to those in need. At each of the participating schools, students could see a dentist, social worker, nurse practitioner or doctor all in one place, all in one day. Twenty staff members from the medical center saw children on a continual basis and built relationships that contributed to the continuum of care. Clinic services were available to any student (with a signed parental consent form) free of charge regardless of the child's insurance status, thus removing one of the most significant barriers to accessing medical care for Newark's families. Notifications of the services offered went home with students with the parental consent forms needed to obtain care. Schools with these clinics reported reduced absenteeism and dropout rates, fewer physical fights, improved asthma management, increased self-esteem, fewer pregnancies and healthy lifestyle changes as well as a decrease in hospital emergency room admissions.

SUBMISSION DATE: 2001

CONTACT:

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Keywords: Adolescents/Teenagers; Asthma; Children and Families; Dental Care; Health Information Dissemination; Low-Income Population; Nutrition; Substance Abuse; Social Support/Services; Uninsured, Medically

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AWARD CATEGORY: PROGRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY

KIMBALL'S SAFE OUTREACH FOR SENIORS PROGRAM

Kimball's SOS Program was an unusual collaboration between the Ocean County Police Department and the medical center's Geriatric Evaluation Management Service. As the senior population increased, the need for comprehensive services to address the "at risk" elderly was required to fulfill service gaps. A team developed a program to assist police officers in identifying the signs and symptoms of dementia and how to handle the elderly exhibiting inappropriate behavior. The program sensitized the officers to the problems of aging and offered them resources to avoid potentially more serious problems through referral for professional help. The program also encompassed police encounters in the home, identifying seniors at risk for safety issues such as self-neglect, paranoia, cluttered living conditions and outdated or lack of food in the refrigerator. Officers were also trained to inspect the person's appearance, appropriateness of clothing for the weather, orientation to time and driving status. When an at-risk senior was identified, the officer completed a referral sheet stating the potential problem that was observed. The SOS team, consisting of a registered nurse and licensed clinical social worker, made contact with the senior and tried to resolve the potential issue and provided community or family support.

SUBMISSION DATES: 2000, 2001

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Keywords: Aged; Alzheimer's/Dementia; Criminal Justice Partnerships; Home Visits; Social Support/Services

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AWARD CATEGORY: PROGRAM FOR POPULATIONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

MHS PARTNERS IN HEALTH:

REDUCING HEALTH DISPARITIES FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS

The mission of Partners in Health was to strengthen the community's minority health agenda by supporting and promoting programs for minority children, the elderly, uninsured or underinsured families and disabled persons. This was accomplished through grassroots efforts such as mobilizing volunteers to work in community outreach programs; building awareness of critical minority health issues; and speaking at churches, schools and civic organizations about the availability and accessibility of services; and collaborating with school systems. Rather than a single program, the Partners in Health initiative promoted healthcare for the whole family. Some of the programs included: Bicycle Helmet Safety Program, which included free helmets and locks and education about injury prevention; the Pediatric Asthma Resource Center utilized a mobile van to educate children and school nurses managing asthma; and Gym and Swim served African American seniors with swim classes, lectures on health topics and scheduled health screenings.

SUBMISSION DATE: 2001

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Keywords: Accident Prevention; Aged; Asthma; Children and Families; Disparities, Healthcare; Minority Groups; Mobile Health Services Vehicles; People with Disabilities; Physical Fitness; Safety Education; Screening, Medical; Uninsured, Medically

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AWARD CATEGORY: PROGRAM FOR POPULATIONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (HONORABLE MENTION)
RNS MOBILE MAMMOGRAPHY PROGRAM

The RNS Mobile Mammography Program facilitated access to breast cancer screening services and follow-up care for hard-to-reach women in Atlantic and Cape May Counties, regardless of their ability to pay. The program's mammography van brought these services directly to women in the community, encouraging participation and removing lack of transportation as a barrier to care. The target audience was women 35 and older who did not have access to healthcare and who had never had a mammogram. The van traveled to sites throughout Atlantic and Cape May counties, including churches, shopping malls, local schools, businesses and other nontraditional sites, during hours convenient for patients, such as early evening and weekends. The RNS team sent posters and fliers to the organizations that would be visited by the RNS Mobile team. The host organization or site publicized the event and ensured that employees, customers and parishioners were notified of the pending visit. Services were provided by a sensitive all female staff, including the program director, who was a breast cancer survivor. Breast cancer and breast examination information were provided in English and Spanish and two staff members were bilingual in Spanish. Patients were tracked and received reminder cards one month before their next exam. The system generated both a physician report and a patient result letter, including referrals for additional testing if needed.

SUBMISSION DATE: 2001

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Keywords: Access, Healthcare; Minority Groups; Mobile Health Services Vehicles; Screening, Medical; Uninsured, Medically; Women

2000 Awards

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AWARD CATEGORY: PROGRAMS FOR MOTHERS AND/OR CHILDREN

VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Student Health Awareness Center developed a Violence Prevention Program to address problems related to anger management, conflict resolution, bullying, stress and violence that threaten children's physical and emotional well being. The programs are age appropriate, and tailored to specific audiences whether it is an elementary school, parent/child class, or a faculty program. "Keeping Your Cool" teaches problem solving skills, Stress-Less for Kids identifies sources of stress and explores coping strategies and "Let's Get Along" helps parents and children to learn positive communication skills and coping techniques. More than 350 children at 29 schools took part in these classes. In addition, the center also offered faculty in-services that focused on violence in the schools and Peer Training for students.

SUBMISSION DATE: 2000

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Keywords: Children and Families; Parents; Violence

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AWARD CATEGORY: PROGRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY

INTERFAITH HEALTH AND SUPPORT SERVICES

A health ministry blending congregational health/parish nursing and interfaith volunteer care giving, this program provided holistic care and faith-based care to anyone in Ocean County who needed or wanted it. The frail, elderly and homebound were the primary population and their needs were varied. Volunteer caregivers provided non-emergency transportation, general visiting, and assistance with household chores, grocery shopping and assistance to the visually impaired. On the parish nursing side, volunteer nurses provided noninvasive care such as serving as a personal health counselor, sup-

porting a family during a crisis, providing information on health resources in the community and promoting wholeness and wellness with a congregation through workshops or seminars. Interfaith Health and Support Services was a community collaborative effort composed of 19 congregations, the St. Francis Community Center and the Pastoral Care Ministry at Southern Ocean County Hospital.

SUBMISSION DATE: 2000

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Keyword: Aged; Faith-based Partnerships; Health Resources Information; Home Visits; Social Support/Services; Transportation

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AWARD CATEGORY: *PROGRAM FOR POPULATIONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS*

PROJECT HOPE - HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM ENRICHMENT

Project Hope's supportive services fulfilled the medical and social needs of Camden City's homeless. This program went into the community and "found" the homeless. Between the mobile outreach van and the outreach workers on the street, the homeless were linked to the services they need. It enabled the homeless to receive the medical care they needed while also addressing social service and housing needs. This program was imperative to the continuum of care since it was often the first step in linking homeless clients to services. Outreach workers were always equipped with pagers and cell phones to contact other team members and make appointments. They had the freedom to escort clients to appointments and spend all day if necessary to make sure a client received care. Project Hope also had a van that could take the homeless to shelters and medical or social service appointments.

SUBMISSION DATE: 2000

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Keywords: Access, Healthcare; Homeless Persons; Social Support/Services; Transportation



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