

The mission of Access Community Health Network is to provide high quality, comprehensive community-based health care for the underserved in the greater Chicago area.

Issue 12
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Caring. Committed. Connected.

PARTNERSHIPS AGAINST HEALTH DISPARITIES

Fighting inequality in breast cancer treatment

A recent study by Sinai Urban Health Institute found that disparities in breast cancer treatment still adversely affect minority women: while black and Latino women are less likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer than their white counterparts, they are still 40 percent more likely to die from the disease. “These findings show that much more work remains to be done in addressing this disparity,” ACCESS CEO Donna Thompson says.

This past spring, ACCESS coordinated wide-reaching efforts throughout the Chicago area to promote breast cancer awareness and raise the issue of access to breast cancer treatment in minority and underserved communities:

“Pin-A-Sister Sunday”

On Mothers’ Day, ACCESS partnered with 50 Chicago-area churches in the African American and Latino communities in pinning pink ribbons on more than 70,000 people during worship services to underline the importance of breast cancer awareness among women of color.

Several prominent elected officials and celebrities participated in the special services, including State Senators Iris Martinez, Jacqueline Collins and Mattie Hunter; State Representatives Connie Howard and Deborah Graham; former State Representative Robin Kelly; Chicago Alderman Leslie Hairston; former Cook County Board President Bobbie Steele; West Side NAACP President Vera Davis; WVON Radio President Melody Spann; and ABC-Channel 7 reporter Roz Varron, who is also a breast cancer survivor.



State Senator Mattie Hunter (right) is pinned with a pink ribbon by First Lady Dr. Tara Jenkins at Fellowship M.B. Church on Chicago’s South Side

Other partners included the American Cancer Society, who provided the pink ribbons, and the state of Illinois’ Stand Against Cancer program, which provides affordable breast and cancer screenings to thousands of low-income Illinois women.

WVON Radio Health Month

Throughout the month of May, ACCESS CEO Donna Thompson and several ACCESS physicians were featured during WVON on-air health segments. They discussed breast cancer awareness and treatment, as well as colon and prostate cancer and postpartum depression.

In addition to these efforts, ACCESS also hosted a breast cancer awareness breakfast summit last March for 200 church leaders, lay advocates, breast cancer survivors, and community members, put on a “Celebrating



State Rep. Deborah Graham (center) with ACCESS and WVON staff at the “Celebrating Moms” event at North Riverside Mall

Moms” breast cancer awareness event at North Riverside Mall with WVON Radio, and gave a special presentation on breast cancer treatment disparities to the Chicago City Council.

Breast Cancer programs at ACCESS are funded by the Illinois Department of Public Health, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

HEROES IN HEALTH CARE: Raises \$140,000 for uninsured and honors Gov. Blagojevich

ACCESS honored Illinois Governor Rod R. Blagojevich for his leadership in improving access to health care for the people of Illinois during the *Heroes in Health Care* Fundraising and Awards Dinner on June 7. Dr. Eric Whitaker, director of the Illinois Department of Public Health, accepted the award for the governor. The event drew 500 attendees and raised nearly \$140,000. All proceeds will benefit ACCESS’ C. Michael Savage Memorial Fund for Uninsured Patients.

Please see insert for more on Heroes in Health Care.



ABOUT ACCESS

With 48 health centers in Chicago and suburban Cook and DuPage counties, Access Community Health Network

is the nation's largest network of community health centers. ACCESS provides comprehensive primary and preventive health care to 200,000 patients annually, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. About 60,000 ACCESS patients are uninsured.

Have you seen ACCESS in the news?

Daily Herald (July 7)
ACCESS to open Addison site

By adding a third DuPage County health center, ACCESS continues to address growing health disparities in the area.

WGN-TV News (March 9–10)
Affordable diabetes care

ACCESS' Dr. Michele Walker and diabetic patient Elizabeth Davis appeared in a news segment about the growing need for affordable diabetes care and how ACCESS provides such care regardless of a patient's insurance status.

The 2006–2007 ACCESS Leadership Council

Patricia Gross
Metro Chicago Information Center

Karin Kasdorf
Evanston Northwestern Healthcare

Santiago Martinez
MB Financial Bank

Susan Nathanson

David Rieser
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Toni Schavocky
HealthSpring of Illinois

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Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine

Michael Woyan
People's Action Redevelopment Coalition

the community connection

Rep. Roskam visits ACCESS

ANNOUNCES FEDERAL GRANT FOR ACCESS ADDISON

U.S. Rep. Peter Roskam (R-Ill.) joined ACCESS on July 6 to announce a \$650,000 federal grant for a new ACCESS health center in DuPage County. ACCESS Addison Family Health Center is projected to serve 4,500 low-income patients annually in Addison, Bensenville and Wood Dale.

"Today is a great day for the residents of DuPage County," Roskam said. "We must continue to expand our area's health care system, insuring that our friends, family and neighbors have access to the best technology, doctors and facilities to keep our community safe and healthy. Access Community Health Network is committed to improving the area's health care, and I am proud to support this new health care facility."

Roskam made the announcement at ACCESS Martin T. Russo Family Health Center in Bloomingdale. ACCESS also operates ACCESS West Chicago Family Health Center in DuPage County, and these two health centers together provide more than 22,000 health encounters a year, half of them to uninsured patients.

About 100,000 DuPage residents have inadequate health coverage, according to a recent *Daily Herald* article.

The federal funding will allow ACCESS to further address racial and ethnic health disparities in the area, particularly around maternal and child health, chronic disease and preventive health care. "We are committed to continuing to work with DuPage County to strengthen the safety net so that more people can have an affordable health care home," ACCESS CEO Donna Thompson says.

United Way DuPage Area also supports ACCESS Russo and ACCESS West Chicago.



Congressman Roskam addresses the crowd at ACCESS Russo in Bloomingdale as Russo Physician Assistant McClelland (left, back) and Russo lead physician Dr. Hamid Hussein look on.

donor spotlight

NORTHERN TRUST CORPORATION

Increasing health care access in Humboldt Park

Poor health is associated with low income and poor access to health care. This holds true in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood, where median household income falls just above \$32,000 and nearly a third of residents live below the poverty line. Not surprisingly, Humboldt Park also has poor health outcomes (see box).

ACCESS would like to thank Northern Trust for helping us address these health needs through their support of ACCESS Humboldt Park Family Health Center. Serving more than 5,000 patients yearly, ACCESS Humboldt Park provides high quality health care services within this Near Northwest Side community and plays a major role in the Humboldt Park health care safety net. In addition to primary and preventive services, ACCESS Humboldt Park provides special programs to address obesity, diabetes and breast cancer, all top health concerns for residents.

"Quality, accessible health care is an invaluable support to people who face obstacles that impede their ability to pay for needed services. Northern Trust is proud to be associated with ACCESS and the important community programs they provide that advance the well-being of people in our communities," says Deborah Liverett, Vice President and Director of Community Affairs for Northern Trust.

Northern Trust's \$10,000 grant to ACCESS Humboldt Park is part of the company's Charitable Trust contributions, which support local, national and international programs focusing on social services, including quality health care, education, arts and culture.

A CLOSER LOOK: Humboldt Park Health

- Number of Humboldt Park residents who...
- are obese:** 34% of adults, 50% of children
- are diabetic:** 16%
- have ever had a mammogram:** Only 56% of women over 40

Sources: Sinai Urban Health Institute, American Journal of Public Health

"I feel that Northern Trust has its heart in Chicago. Working with ACCESS fits the Northern Trust because of the nature of the kind of people who work there—they are very responsive to the community."

The Northern Trust Corporation is a leading provider of investment management, asset and fund administration, fiduciary and banking solutions for corporations, institutions and affluent individuals worldwide. Northern Trust, a multibank holding company based in Chicago, has a growing network of 84 offices in 18 U.S. states and has international offices in 13 locations in North America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. They have been a partner to ACCESS since 1999.

Data Sources: Chicago Department of Planning and Development, U.S. Census Bureau

recent grants and contributions

January 1, 2007 – June 30, 2007

Thank you for your generous support!

Private Grants and Contributions

AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Support for HIV services

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
Support for uninsured care in and around Cicero and Berwyn

Community Memorial Foundation
Support for perinatal health program at ACCESS Des Plaines Valley Health Center in Summit

Design Industry Foundation Fighting AIDS
Support for HIV services

Field Foundation of Illinois
Support to help families enroll in public health coverage programs

Julius Frankel Foundation
Support for the C. Michael Savage Memorial Fund for Uninsured Patients

Grant Healthcare Foundation
Support for the development of the immunization program

Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation
Support to implement developmental screenings throughout the ACCESS network

National Eye Institute
Support for an outreach and education program to address diabetic retinopathy

The Northern Trust Company
General operating support for ACCESS Humboldt Park Family Health Center

Prince Charitable Trusts
Support for new phone systems and to benefit front line health center staff

Reach Out and Read and the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Support for early literacy program benefiting low-income children.

Roche Pharmaceuticals and the National Association of Community Health Centers
Support for the development of a program to address hepatitis C on Chicago's North and South Sides

Dr. Scholl Foundation
Support for the development of the immunization program

Season of Concern
Support for transportation for patients with HIV

Irvin Stern Foundation
Support for work with hospitals to reduce emergency department overuse and to promote early literacy for low-income children in Rogers Park

Federal Public Grants

U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration
Support for expansion of services at ACCESS Genesis Center for Health and Empowerment in Des Plaines; Support to open a new health center serving Addison and Bensenville; Support to provide medical services to homeless individuals in south suburban Cook County

State and Local Public Grants

Illinois Department of Public Health
Support for breast and cervical case management services; Support for HIV medical treatment adherence services

Individual and Organizational Donors
ACCESS thanks the many individuals and organizations who donated to the C. Michael Savage Memorial Fund for Uninsured Patients, and to our Individual, Corporate and Faith-Based Donors.

ACCESS online!

Visit ACCESS on the web at

www.accesscommunityhealth.net

Learn about ACCESS' comprehensive programs and services.

Find information on our 48 health centers.

Donate online.

ACCESS on WBEZ Chicago Public Radio

ACCESS OPENS UNIQUE SCHOOL-BASED CENTER

Our new ACCESS @ Lindblom health center was featured on July 6 on Chicago Public Radio! Located at Lindblom Math and Science Academy in Chicago's South Side Englewood neighborhood, ACCESS @ Lindblom is unique in that it serves both students and community members alike.



Physician Assistant Aisha Wesley, lead provider at ACCESS @ Lindblom

"During school hours, we see students, but after school we open our doors to the community," says Physician Assistant Aisha Wesley, lead provider at ACCESS @ Lindblom.

The site offers general health care, school and sports physicals, immunizations, women's health care, STD testing and counseling, and health education. It is expected to provide 2,500 patient visits annually.

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For additional information about Access Community Health Network, please visit our website at www.accesscommunityhealth.net, or call us at 773.257.5151.

ACCESS is accredited by the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO), ranking our quality of care among the top 10 percent of ambulatory care providers in the nation.



connections

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If you are receiving multiple copies of this newsletter, please contact Sue Fakhoury at faks@accesscommunityhealth.net or (773) 257-5193. Thank you!



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