

STRAIGHT news

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Mile of Quarters makes a mark

Clifford the Big Red Dog attracted a record crowd of families and children of all ages to the CHC Mile of Quarters event held at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Bath this past October. With the help of our presenting sponsors, OMNOVA Solutions Foundation, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Buckeye Community Health Plan and Hansen Juice we were able to raise over \$15,000 for prevention education programs at the CHC as well as spread the word about the importance of preventing drug and alcohol abuse in our community.

The Mile of Quarters was highlighted with visits and story readings by local community leaders all weekend. Mayor Bill Roth of Fairlawn, Miss Marie Reichart, principal of Our Lady of the Elms Elementary, Angela from WKDD, Municipal Court Judge Lynne S. Callahan, Juvenile Court Judge Linda Teodosio and

Summit County Sheriff Deputy Sheila Church read stories to crowds of children on Barnes & Noble's story time stage.

Barnes & Noble Booksellers also sponsored an in-store bookfair during the Mile of Quarters benefiting CHC and the students at Our Lady of the Elms, adding over \$1,100 to the total raised for the weekend. Without the support of countless volunteers, corporate donors and a great audience, this event would not have been possible.

For more information about the Community Health Center Foundation and the next Mile of Quarters, please visit www.comhealthcenter.org/foundation.





Summit County Juvenile Court Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio reads during story time at the Mile of Quarters in October at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Bath.

STAFF RECOGNITION

CHC Annual Awards Announced

At the annual meetings of the CHC, CHC Foundation and OMCDC Dec. 11, awards were given recognizing distinguished individuals who made a difference in the lives of the patients we serve.

LEAF OF LIFE AWARD

Jim Ranftl, president,
CHC Foundation Board of Trustees
For outstanding service to the CHC and Foundation for over 30 years.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Janet D'Antonio, CHC Board
of Directors
For outstanding service and advocacy for CHC and the ADM levy in 2007.

FRIEND OF THE FIELD AWARD

Mike Freeman, Councilman,
Akron Ward 9
For his leadership opposing a new state liquor establishment in his neighborhood, which was also in proximity to a CHC housing program.

The following staff members were recognized at our annual holiday luncheon Dec. 19 for upholding and improving high standards of quality care to our patients.

PAT BARNHART AWARD

Farren Murphy, case manager
For his "out of the box" approach in working with the most chronically affected patients.

QUALITIS AWARD

Tiffanie Ferguson,
adolescent counselor
For her professionalism, hard work and compassion when working with children and families in treatment.

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Debbi Finn, coordinator
of information services
For helping CHC transition into a new software system while also maintaining confidentiality and high quality records for patients.

Thank you to our 2008 Major Sponsors!

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CHC participates in Summit guiding national policy

Ted Ziegler, CEO, and Capt. Hylton Baker, commander of the Summit County Sheriff's Drug Unit, represented Akron along with 10 other representatives from the state at the *Methamphetamine: The National Summit to Promote Public Health, Partnerships, and Safety for Critically Affected Populations* sponsored by the CDC and SAMHSA this past November.

The goal of the Summit was to promote public health collaboration and strategic planning to assist communities in their

response to Methamphetamine use. The Summit focused primarily on vulnerable populations including women, gay & lesbian individuals and the justice involved.

The Summit County Sheriff's Office continues to be leaders in the state, effectively eradicating 68 meth sites in 2008. Just recently, the Sheriff completed a year-long investigation involving a couple in Akron selling chemicals to make meth on eBay, resulting in the largest internet bust for methamphetamine to date.



Jan Wagner with Tom Haskins, Chair ADM Board of Directors at the Annual ADM Luncheon on Oct. 15.

Wagner recognized for advocacy

Janet L. Wagner, COO, was recognized with the Sister Ignatia Award at the 2008 ADM Luncheon at the Akron Urban League this past October.

Jan has been with CHC for 30 years, becoming the agency's chief operating officer in 1990. Under Jan's leadership CHC has grown and expanded, quadrupling its patient population, without ever losing sight of the most important aspect—great patient care.

Jan is not a COO that just sits behind her desk. She can be found greeting the first methadone patient by name at the door at 5:30 AM and meeting personally with patients as they transition through the recovery process. Jan has actively advocated on behalf of patients in recovery, resolving over 500 patient grievances. She models behavior she expects all CHC staff to emulate, which is treating every patient with dignity and respect.

"She is an example to all of us with her leadership style," says a member of her staff, "approaching each issue with an open mind and always putting the patient's best interest first."

KIDSPACE

Holidays are bright at KidSpace

KidSpace Child Care and Learning Center celebrated the holiday season by showing their children and families how thankful they were for their business. The center hosted three events over Thanksgiving and Christmas to showcase the center and celebrate a great year.

At Thanksgiving, over 50 friends and family members of KidSpace came together to enjoy a "friendship feast." Then, at Christmas time, KidSpace had a float in the downtown Akron parade which welcomed Santa to town! All teachers and their children volunteered to ride on the float and pass out fliers for their Breakfast with Santa event later in the month. Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 13 was a success, and was open to KidSpace families and the public.

"We've had a great year at KidSpace and



KidSpace students pose with Santa at their Breakfast with Santa event on Dec. 13.

just wanted to do something so more people could have the opportunity to see our center in action," commented Deanna Cramlette, KidSpace Director.

Additionally, with a grant from the CHC Foundation, KidSpace recently established a second infant room and made improvements in other areas. Come see what's going on at this growing business! KidSpace is still accepting new enrollees for the spring and summer months. Call 330.253.KIDS (3437) for more information.

STRAIGHT news

Straight News is a publication of the Community Health Center and the Community Health Center Foundation.

Ideas for articles are welcome and should be addressed to the Editor at: 702 East Market St., Akron, OH 44305 330.315.3715

CHC and CHC Foundation are equal opportunity employers and providers of services.

Theodore P. Ziegler, CEO

Editor: Chrissy Lockhart

ADM BOARD The Community Health Center is a contract agency of the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board and the Stark County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board.

The Community Health Center facilities and services are certified by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

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 • Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) • Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, CLIA • Medicaid Certified Treatment Agency • City of Akron Health Department • Ohio EPA Certification • Ohio Department of Human Services

THE CHC IS FUNDED IN PART BY:

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 • US Department of H.U.D. • Ohio Department of Development • Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services • Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority • Area Agency on Aging • Community Health Center Foundation • Akron Public Schools • US Department of Justice Department of Youth Services • Stark County ADAS Board

If you have received more than one copy of this publication, or if your name appears incorrectly on the mailing label, call the CHC Foundation at 330.315.3776, or write to us at the above address.

Adopt-A-Family results

Our 2008 Adopt-A-Family program was a huge success, providing gifts for 14 families including 36 children in need during this holiday season.

Several local organizations and individuals came forward to support the CHC Foundation to help these families have a merry Christmas:

- Anthem of Canton
- Gary Benz
- Buckeye Community Health Plan
- Tanya Ciavollella
- Tony Colao
- Janet D'Antonio
- Rachel D'Attoma
- Kiwanis Club of Stow-Munroe Falls
- Lambert Buick Pontiac GMC
- Bill Laymon
- Becky Mason, Dani Malinowski and CHC

Counseling Staff

- Joe Scalise
- Summit Co. Engineer's Office
- Jan Wagner
- Bridget Weidenborner
- Bob Papa
- Ted Ziegler

The Foundation also provided each family with a \$50 gift certificate to Giant Eagle. One thankful family remarked, "Oh my gosh, I was going to make eggs for dinner, now we can go and by some groceries!"

Through the Community Health Center Foundation we continue to reach more families every year. This program would not be possible without the continued support of many annual donors. The CHC Foundation accepts donations year-round for CHC families in need. Call the Foundation at 330.315.3776.



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