



# connecting for Health

A PUBLICATION OF MARIN COMMUNITY CLINICS

SPRING/SUMMER 2013

## From Safety Net to Provider of Choice Preparing for Health Care Reform

By Linda Tavaszi, Chief Executive Officer

From its inception 40 years ago, Marin Community Clinics has been a health care provider to people with very limited options. Many patients did not have any health insurance yet did not qualify for public insurance programs such as Medi-Cal: some were unemployed; others were self-employed or worked at businesses that did not provide employee benefits; others had pre-existing conditions that made them uninsurable.

While sometimes viewed from the outside as a provider of last resort, we have always had highly skilled and dedicated clinicians and staff who have strived – with significant success – to be a provider of choice. Our goal has been to make Marin Community Clinics a place where anyone would be happy to receive their health care. Modern facilities, on-site lab and pharmacy, and expanded services (including dentistry, obstetrics & gynecology, behavioral health, optometry, podiatry, chiropractic, acupuncture and other specialty care) have all been vital to our providing comprehensive care.

Our mission is to improve the health of our patients and community by providing high quality, cost-effective, culturally sensitive, patient-centered health care. This mission is carried out every day by Board-certified providers and staff who understand the social factors that impact our patients.

Currently in the process of becoming an accredited Patient Centered Medical Home, Marin Community Clinics continues to focus on quality improvement and efficiencies. When the Affordable Care Act (health care reform) is fully implemented beginning January 2014, patients will have more options and cannot be denied insurance based on pre-existing conditions. Medi-Cal will be expanded so that many who are now uninsured will qualify for those benefits. (Our staff will assist eligible patients to

enroll in Medi-Cal as soon as the State begins that process.) Others now uninsured will become covered through the Health Insurance Exchange.

We expect that when more people in Marin County become insured – either through the Exchange or Medi-Cal – they will choose to become patients of Marin Community Clinics. Our high patient satisfaction scores indicate that they will be glad they did.



Dr. Kathy Winston provides acupuncture treatment

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## Leading Voices

### Reflections of the Board President, Jerry Oken



After serving as Marin Community Clinics' Board President for two and a half years, my term will come to an end in June. This upcoming change is an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of our busy community health center which provides care to over 31,000 low-income Marin residents. While I have been aware for many years that a substantial number of our community members live in poverty, it still surprises me that many – if not most – Marin residents are not aware of this. Marin County is well known for its affluence and beauty; it is not so widely known that 23% of Marin households did not have sufficient income to meet basic needs under the Self Sufficiency standard, according to the County of Marin Department of Health & Human Services.

I am grateful to my dedicated colleagues on the Board of Directors and the amazing physicians, staff and volunteers who are genuinely committed to providing the best possible care to patients. So much has been accomplished by this group working together as a team, and I'd like to highlight some of Marin Community Clinics' recent achievements:

- We developed a strong management team which is well equipped to handle the increasingly complex problems facing community health centers such as ours.

- We expanded services (added obstetrics & gynecology, optometry, and on-site pharmacy) and expanded facilities (added three new dental chairs in San Rafael and opened a fourth site – the Campus Clinic at the Marin Health & Wellness Campus).
- We developed a stronger, more diverse Board of Directors who care deeply about Marin Community Clinics and its patients.
- We have maintained excellent quality of care and received high scores in patient satisfaction while increasing patient visits significantly (12,000 visits per month currently vs. 8,400 two and one-half years ago)

All of this was done while our organization also increased financial stability, including eliminating all debt, purchasing the San Rafael Clinic outright, and achieving a satisfactory cash position. In addition to the Board and staff ensuring that operations are efficient, the support of our donors remains critical to our ability to meet the needs of our less fortunate neighbors.

One piece of unfinished business that I had hoped we would complete in this fiscal year is the relocation of the Greenbrae clinic to a more modern facility. Despite many attempts, that has not yet come to fruition – but we're still working on it! I look forward to continuing to serve on the Board, and I am confident that incoming Board President Bill Kerr will do an outstanding job of leading Marin Community Clinics.

## Legacy Circle Founders Lauded

Marin Community Clinics has launched the *Legacy Circle*, a new giving program that will ensure our future through estate bequests. In January 2013 the Founding Members of the *Legacy Circle* were honored with a reception to thank them for believing so deeply in the value of our mission that they have made a personal commitment to guarantee that Marin Community Clinics remains financially secure through their own Planned Gifts.

The reception was a spirited gathering of community members committed to health care for all. Dr. Erik Schten, Medical Director of our Novato Clinic, reported on recent successes in our programs and stressed the vital role of donors who have enabled us to meet the needs of growing numbers of patients. Dr. Larry Meredith, Director of Marin County Health & Human Services Department, outlined the challenges that

health care providers will face during the transition to new ways of delivering health services in coming years.



Grace Hughes inspired the group as she spoke about her own commitment to Marin Community Clinics.

*“As one of the founding members of the Legacy Circle, I want to urge you to join those of us who have given our commitment thus far in helping to assure MCC a more secure future...My dear friend Bob Derzon was an inspiration to me in so many ways. As a staunch supporter of health care for all, his involved and committed actions affected the lives of thousands of people who, without his support and caring, would not have received responses to their health care needs. His guidance and his commitment have brought us to this moment in time.*

*Legacy circle — continued on page 7*

## Health Care Champions to be Honored at Summer Solstice Celebration



Dr. Steven Schroeder has spent his long medical career devoted to improving the long term health of his entire community. As Distinguished Professor of Health and Health Care at UCSF, he has launched countless careers in Internal Medicine. He also heads the Smoking Cessation Leadership Center at UCSF. The Center

works with health care leaders nationwide to increase the cessation rate for smokers. It has, among other things, engaged the mental health treatment community in reducing tobacco use. He has held faculty appointments at Harvard, George Washington University, as well as UCSF where he founded its division of general internal medicine.

Dr. Schroeder graduated with honors from Stanford University and Harvard Medical School, and trained in internal medicine at Boston City Hospital and in epidemiology at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As President and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation from 1990–2002, he guided the foundation to fulfill its mission of improving the health and health care of all Americans. He has published extensively in the fields of clinical medicine, prevention, public health, and tobacco control. He was a member of the editorial board of the *New England Journal of Medicine* for 18 years and is a board director of the James Irvine Foundation, the Robina Foundation, Marin General Hospital, and Mathematica Policy Research.

From treating patients as a volunteer (early in our history, at sites in local churches) to more recently serving as Honorary Campaign Committee Chair of our *Building a Healthy Future* capital campaign, Marin Community Clinics has been fortunate that Dr. Schroeder has shared his expertise with us. He lives in Tiburon with his wife Sally, a retired schoolteacher. They have two sons, who are also physicians, and four grandchildren.



Dr. Georgianna Farren has been a physician at Marin Community Clinics for over half of her 30-year career in Internal Medicine. Since 2005 she has served as our Chief Medical Officer, combining her passion for practicing medicine in a diverse community with leadership skills

that have enabled our unprecedented growth during her tenure. Recently Dr. Farren has successfully led clinicians and staff through several major initiatives, including electronic health records implementation, and developing new programs including behavioral health, obstetrics and gynecology, and diabetes management. Currently she is leading our efforts to become an accredited Patient Centered Medical Home; we expect to achieve the first level of National Committee for Quality Assurance accreditation later this year.

Dr. Farren worked closely with the leadership of the County Health & Human Services Dept., Prima Medical Foundation, and Marin General Hospital to develop an innovative inpatient Maternity Care Delivery System when Marin Community Clinics expanded its Women's Health Program to include obstetrics and gynecology. Collaboration with community partners has been a hallmark of Dr. Farren's tenure as CMO.

Dr. Farren received her medical degree from The George Washington University School of Medicine, Master of Education at University of Virginia, and Bachelor of Arts from University of California, Berkeley. Additionally she was Research Director at Zero Breast Cancer for three years, serving as co-principal investigator for studies regarding breast cancer in Marin County. She has also served as Medical Consultant for Dominican University, and is currently the President-Elect of Marin Medical Society and a member of the Physician Advisory Committee for Partnership HealthPlan.

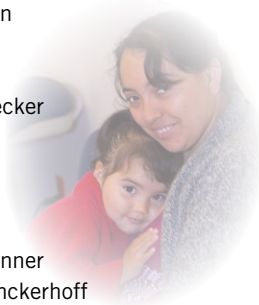
Dr. Farren has three adult daughters, and she and her husband Dr. John Loftus live in Larkspur.



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### What else is new? Visit our website for:

- ❖ Dr. Erik Schten wins Partnership HealthPlan of California's "Best Doctor Contest" for Marin County
- ❖ Dr. Patrick Bennett wins Heart of Marin Volunteer of the Year Award
- ❖ More on the launch of Optometry services
- ❖ Useful links to resources for more information on the coming implementation of the Affordable Care Act

[www.marinclinics.org](http://www.marinclinics.org)

See also: Dr. Tracey Hessel, Marin Community Clinics Lead Pediatrician, has published an article on Childhood Obesity in the winter issue of *Marin Medicine* (a publication of Marin Medical Society):

[www.marinmedicalsociety.org](http://www.marinmedicalsociety.org)

### Welcoming the Affordable Care Act

We are grateful to Bobbie Wunsch of Pacific Health Consulting Group and Pedro Toledo of Redwood Community Health Coalition who presented a lively and informative "Conversation on the Affordable Care Act" hosted by Marin Community Clinics in February 2013. They sorted out many of the changes that are coming to healthcare in 2014, while noting that several of the details are still being developed.

**Marin Community Clinics** appreciates your support. To join these generous donors in helping to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable low-income children and adults in Marin County,

*Or*

If you would like to learn more about including Marin Community Clinics in your Estate Plans,

**Please contact us at 415-798-3109  
or give online at [www.marinclinics.org](http://www.marinclinics.org)**



## In Memoriam – Helen “Peggy” Cahill and Kevin Harrington, MD

All of us at Marin Community Clinics were deeply saddened by the deaths earlier this year of two generous members of our community – Peggy Cahill and Dr. Kevin Harrington.

**Peggy Cahill** was a steadfast donor and enthusiastic supporter of Marin Community Clinics since 1999. Beloved by many for her generous spirit and keen intellectual curiosity, Peggy was a lifelong traveler, student, and devotee of California history, art and literature. She and her late husband John, the longtime President of Cahill Construction, Inc., of San Francisco, were involved in numerous civic and historical organizations, including the Sierra Club, the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley (where she was the first woman trustee), and Friends of the Bancroft Library.

Peggy was instrumental in the establishment of endowed chairs and fellowships studying Parkinson’s Disease at Stanford Medical School and at the UCSF Center for Neurosciences. Every day thousands of Marin Community Clinics’ patients see her name as they enter the Cahill Family Medical Clinic in San Rafael, made possible by Peggy’s generous support of our Building a Healthy Future capital campaign.



Peggy Cahill at groundbreaking of San Rafael clinic in 2007 surrounded by her family (from left) Kathleen King and Jerry Cahill, Pat and Jay Cahill.

**Dr. Kevin Harrington** was a passionate defender of the undefended and a true Renaissance man. He unselfishly gave his time and expertise to various causes throughout his long career as an orthopedic surgeon. After retiring from private practice in 2003, Dr. Harrington committed his time, talent, and great enthusiasm to the patients of Marin Community Clinics, where he spearheaded and expanded orthopedic services to the underserved of Marin County.



He was featured in our Spotlight on Community Champions on our website in 2011. He was also honored as “Community Champion” at our 2012 Summer Solstice Celebration (*above with Susan Adams*) for his commitment to the ideal that all patients deserve quality care and attention no matter what their financial circumstances. He was admired by our clinicians, staff, and patients for his warmth and devotion. Dr. Harrington’s wife Margaret (Peggy) Harrington, MD, has established **The Kevin Harrington Orthopedic Fund** that will assist our patients in need of artificial knees and hips, and other orthopedic devices that would otherwise be unavailable to those without means.

### Legacy Circle— continued from page 2

*It comforts me to know that the planning I do today will insure that those I love and causes that I care about will have resources to make this world a better place, even after I am no longer here. I hope that you will consider your commitment to insuring the health and longevity of your investments and become a member of the Legacy Circle of Marin Community Clinics.”*

To learn more about our Legacy Circle and estate gifts, please visit our website or call our Planned Giving office at 415-526-8527.

### LEGACY CIRCLE FOUNDING MEMBERS

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## Summer Solstice Celebration 2013

Summer Solstice is a magical time marked in legend and myth as a celebration of the sun's revitalizing energy, a perfect time to share hopes for health and well-being for all. **Celebrate the solstice with friends of Marin Community Clinics at the historic Marin Art and Garden Center in Ross on Friday, June 21st, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

This year's event will honor 2013 Community Health Champions: Dr. Georgianna Farren, Marin Community Clinics' Chief Medical Officer, and Dr. Steven Schroeder, UCSF Distinguished Professor of Health and Health Care and Director of the Smoking Cessation Leadership Center. (See page 3 to learn more about Dr. Farren and Dr. Schroeder.)

We will celebrate the first day of summer with a fresh and local menu by Stacy Scott Catering, specially-selected California wines, and music by acclaimed harpist Michelle Sell. Solstice

activities will include the opportunity to make a traditional herb wreath to take home, a playful gift of sparklers symbolic of the bonfires associated with the Solstice, and a photo booth with props suggestive of Midsummer Eve.

It has been five years since Supervisor Susan Adams chose us to carry on her tradition of a Summer Solstice event benefiting Marin's residents without private health insurance. Each year this event has grown in attendance and sponsorships, and has a following of supporters who look forward to this evening in the gardens with pleasure.

Begin the summer with hope and goodwill, support Marin Community Clinics, and honor Dr. Farren and Dr. Schroeder. **To purchase tickets, see the list of our generous sponsors, and learn more about the honorees, visit our website at [www.marinclinics.org](http://www.marinclinics.org).**

