



connecting for Health

Heartening News in Challenging Times

Letter from the Board President, Jennifer Loucks

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Shrinking assets, rising unemployment rates, slashed financial support for vital public services – these are some of the many economic challenges that our country faces at federal, state, and local levels. Many individuals and families in Marin are struggling to stay afloat financially. At a time when services are needed most, many Marin non-profit organizations are forced to significantly scale back their programs and are competing more and more for shrinking donor contributions. On behalf of Marin Community Clinics' Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to share some good news with you: Marin Community Clinics has carefully planned and monitored our budget and is able to maintain stable, growing operations.



Thanks to incredible community support, we have accomplished much in the past two years. **The Building a Healthy Future campaign went a long way in improving Marin Community Clinics' visibility and generat-**

ed a new level of excitement. Some of you who are reading this were not aware of our organization before the campaign. The speed with which the campaign's goals were met is a source of pride and gratitude.

Within a short time period, the committed, energetic volunteers of the Capital Campaign Cabinet and Honorary Board of **Building a Healthy Future** raised over \$9 million. The Board and the staff completed construction of two brand-new clinics in San Rafael and Novato, doubling Marin Community Clinics' clinical capacity. The staff were able to license the new facilities, begin operations, and quickly bring the clinics to operational efficiency. Being a Federally Qualified Health Center, Marin Community Clinics has been spared some of the

sharp cuts by the State, at least for the short term, and has received stimulus funds to help gear up to serve the many Marin residents who have lost their health insurance.

Now we look forward to relocating the Greenbrae trailer clinic to a more appropriate facility near the campus of Marin General Hospital. We have applied for federal stimulus funds to finance this relocation. We are also exploring bringing dental services to Novato. Future capital funding for needs such as diagnostic equipment will be sought from foundations and private donors. When all of these projects are completed, we expect **Marin Community Clinics will serve over 22,000 patients annually with a full range of adult and pediatric primary and specialty care, dentistry, and mental health services.**

The Board and staff thank you for your support. Our donors help us to sustain services, and we rely on your generosity. We will keep you informed about the work being done at the clinics. I invite you to check our website www.marinclinics.org.

A New Beginning in Novato

Susan Wiebers, Novato Clinic Director



Photo by Dee Katson

When you enter the new Novato clinic you'll notice a welcoming lobby and lots of smiles. The clinic opened in April, and staff and patients are thrilled with the new building. Seeing patients' happy faces and hearing their comments about this beautiful place is very rewarding. Each day there are new patients seeking health care. Thankfully we now have space for more health care providers, which increases access for newly uninsured patients.

The new Novato clinic also allows for increased partnerships with other organizations, such as Legal Aid of Marin and Family Works, to bring much-needed support services to our patients. Other partnerships are being explored to optimize health care and provide support to individuals and families.

All of us at Marin Community Clinics Novato are grateful to the donors who took our dream and made it a reality. We pledge to continually use our creativity and skills to meet the needs of the Novato community.



Pediatric Wing in Novato Clinic

Photo by Dee Katson

Celebrating a Year in San Rafael

Michelle Miller, San Rafael Clinic Director

In July 2008 Marin Community Clinics opened the doors of its San Rafael Clinic. Patients were greeted by friendly, familiar faces that had taken care of them in our Novato and Greenbrae clinics. The staff eagerly embraced the opportunity to bring high-quality health care to a new location. Employees and patients quickly settled into the fast pace that would become the everyday hustle and bustle of the San Rafael Clinic. **We now have six or more providers a day seeing patients, with 500 patient visits per week.**

For the first time in Marin Community Clinics' history, dental services are being provided. Patients are pleased to find the dental staff warm and comforting, providing premium dental care. **Word of our standards of excellence rapidly spread. Subsequently, the dental clinic is operating at full capacity, serving 850 patients per month. There is so much demand for these services that the dental clinic is now seeing pediatric patients on Saturdays.**

Patients tell us how happy they are that the clinic made its way to their neighborhood. Many patients can walk to the clinic, which makes for significantly better access. Have you ever taken a sick child in a stroller on a couple of buses to see a doctor? Not a desirable situation. Yes, our patients are happy we are here, and we are happy to be here.

Smiles All Around at Dental Clinic

In assessing community needs, it was clear that Marin had unmet needs for dental care. Once the decision was made to include dental care, outstanding dentists in the community, most notably Dr. Louis Geissberger and Dr. John Boland, came forward to volunteer their expertise. Dr. Geissberger participated in the Capital Campaign and consulted with us. Dr. Boland volunteered his services and sees complex pediatric patients every Friday. Under the leadership of Dr. John Boland and Dr. Connie Kadera, dental care in our state-of-the-art facility has been extremely well received. A letter from a grateful mother sums up what many have expressed:

"I just wanted to thank you for my excellent uplifting experience... I was blown away by Dr. Mike Lopez. We have seen five different dentists already (before coming to MCC). He was the kindest, smartest, most kid-friendly dentist we've ever met. I am so grateful my kids could meet him and have such a positive early experience with a professional caring doctor with a friendly smile... Your clinic is a major blessing in the life of my children." – Alia S.

Greenbrae Clinic Still Thriving

With a new clinic in San Rafael, you might think that the Greenbrae Clinic has become quiet and the numbers of patients decreased. Not so! **The Greenbrae Clinic is busy with 30,000 pediatric and adult primary care and mental health visits annually.** It is also the primary location of our specialty care and the site where patients from other Marin non-profit clinics are referred for some specialty care thanks to the Marin Specialty Care Access Coalition. We currently have Acupuncture, Chiropractic, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Neurology, Orthopedic Surgery, Physical Therapy, Podiatry, Urology and Vascular Surgery represented. With assistance from the local specialist community, we continue to add specialties to build a strong network of clinicians.

We thank our volunteer specialists for their remarkable contributions. Please visit www.marinclinics.org for more information and to view a list of our specialists.

We are preparing to relocate the Greenbrae Clinic to another site near Marin General Hospital. With the remarkable success in building, opening and operating new clinics in San Rafael and Novato, we are confident that patients and staff in Greenbrae will soon have a beautiful, spacious clinic.

Building a Healthy Future A Campaign Success!

The numbers are in! **Through the generous support of major donors - the County of Marin, Marin Community Foundation, Sutter Health, Kaiser Permanente, and many individuals - the capital campaign raised \$9.1 million from 2007 to 2009. An additional \$795,000 in federal stimulus money was awarded for construction costs.** Marin Community Clinics is proud to announce that the capital campaign, under the leadership of Grace Hughes, has come to a close.

Our San Rafael clinic just celebrated its first anniversary. In one year, this modern clinic has become a key healthcare provider in the community, offering over 500 primary care and 200 dental visits weekly. In Novato, the location and well-designed floor plan of the Novato clinic has garnered kudos from patients and staff alike. **Patient visits have already increased in the larger space, reaching 480 primary care visits per week.** Our new Administrative Office is conveniently located on the same site as the clinic in Novato.

Marin Community Clinics is grateful to the many supporters who rallied to reach the goals of **Building a Healthy Future**. Because of them, thousands of Marin's children, women and men who need a medical home can conveniently access our services. **Visit www.marinclinic.org/who5leadership.html to view the list of campaign committee members.**

Introducing – Marin Community Clinics Clinical Leadership



Dr. Georgianna Farren



Dr. Bertrand Vandeville



Dr. Tracey Hessel



Dr. Erik Schten

Each of our clinics has a Medical Director to work closely with clinical staff and clinic management to oversee daily operations, assure high quality of care, and participate in planning future services. **Dr. Erik Schten, Novato Medical Director, Dr. Bertrand Vandeville, Greenbrae Medical Director, and Dr. Tracey Hessel, Lead Pediatrician,** team with Chief Medical Officer **Dr. Georgianna Farren, Acting San Rafael Medical Director,** to ensure the smooth management of clinical services. Dr. Farren is actively recruiting a Medical Director for the San Rafael clinic.



Main Entrance to the San Rafael Clinic

Photo by Jerry Downs

The San Rafael clinic now has six or more providers a day seeing patients, with 500 patient visits per week. The dental clinic is operating at full capacity, serving 850 patients per month.

Thank you to our donors for supporting our patients from July 1, 2008 – July 1, 2009

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marin community clinics

Administrative Office

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Three Clinic Locations

**250 Bon Air Road
Greenbrae, CA 94904**
*(On the grounds of
Marin General Hospital)*

**6100 Redwood Boulevard
Novato, CA 94945**
(Near Rowland Blvd.)

**3110 Kerner Boulevard
San Rafael, CA 94901**
(Near Irene Street at The Loop)

**To make an appointment:
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Our Community Champion Grace Hughes



For all of her efforts on behalf of those in need of affordable health care in Marin, we are pleased to recognize Grace Hughes. As the Board of Directors began planning the Capital Campaign, **one name was at the top of the wish list for a campaign leader, Grace Hughes**, Marin Airporter founder and former Marin Community Clinics Board member.

From the moment she said, "Yes!" Ms. Hughes' support was unwavering. She led the capital campaign cabinet in developing strategies to identify and approach major donors, increase our visibility, and create excitement in the community. Under her leadership, the cabinet's fundraising activities made it possible for two new clinics to be built. Her energy and commitment were crucial to the success of *Building a Healthy Future*.

Ms. Hughes' unequivocal commitment to – and confidence in – Marin Community Clinics was evident to the community members she approached for financial support. A major donor recently playfully declared, **"You don't say no to Grace Hughes when she asks for your support, especially for a good cause like that of the Clinic."**

On behalf of the patients, staff and Board of Directors – thank you, Grace!



Summer Solstice Honors Champions for Children

On a beautiful summer afternoon in the light-filled Atrium at Autodesk, Marin Community Clinics held the 7th Annual Summer Solstice Celebration in support of Marin children's health. Honorary Co-Chairs Supervisor Susan Adams and Senator Mark Leno inspired the audience. Proceeds benefitted CaliforniaKids Healthcare Foundation (CalKids), a provider for Children's Health Initiative which funds services at Marin Community Clinics and Coastal Health Alliance. Children who do not qualify for public health insurance such as Healthy Families receive health care thanks to CalKids.

The ceremony, emceed with enthusiasm by Cio Hernandez, honored the contributions to children's health of three extraordinary Marin professionals – **the 2009 Champions for Children: Dr. Nelson Branco, pediatrician; Dr. Louis Geissberger, retired dentist; and Amy Reisch, First 5 Marin Executive Director. Thank you to these champions and everyone who supported the event.** To learn more about the honorees and view a list of sponsors, please visit www.marinclinics.org.

Connecting for Health is a publication of Marin Community Clinics
Editor: Judith Snead, MPH
Design: Robin Brandes Strategic Graphic Design
Printing and Mailing: Strahm Communications