



connecting for Health

The New Face of Dental Care

Dental services will be available in Northern Marin this fall

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Recently we received this letter from Beverly Oler, a retired nurse, who is a patient at the Geissberger Dental Clinic in San Rafael:

“Today my partial dentures were delivered. I am so pleased about them! They fit and look nice when I smile.

I used to fear a visit to a dentist. My total experience here has been like a visit with friends. The setting is beautiful, and I felt...like I was safe. The assistants were always alert to my needs, as well as the dentist’s needs. This environment is professional, and friendly, and furnished with quality equipment.

Dr. Tong, Heidi, and Jorge have made a lifelong impression on me and changed my attitude about dental visits. I love this place and the people.”

Sincerely, Beverly Oler, RN

Since July 2009, Medi-Cal has restricted dental benefits for adults to emergency services and dental care for pregnant women, severely limiting access to oral health services for low-income adults. And because Medicare does not cover dental services, many of our seniors on fixed incomes cannot easily afford dental care.

Happily this picture is changing. Thanks to a \$500,000 grant from Marin Community Foundation’s Sutter Health Access to Care Fund, we have expanded our adult dentistry services. Adults who earn 200% federal poverty level or less (see Page 3) and are Marin residents can self-refer for dental appointments on a first-come, first-served basis. Previously they needed a referral from a primary care provider. This grant will increase access to dentistry and will benefit the overall well-being of adults who otherwise would not receive preventive and restorative dentistry.

As this newsletter goes to press, construction of our Novato Dental Clinic (adjacent to our Novato medical clinic) is well underway. Like the Geissberger Dental Clinic in San Rafael, it will be equipped with six state-of-the-art operating areas, laboratory, and panoramic X-ray. When it opens in mid-October, the Novato Dental Clinic will be open five days a week. We look forward to welcoming adult and pediatric patients and more conveniently serving residents of northern Marin.



Sherman Chan, DDS, and Jorge Garcia, RDA, treat adult dental patient

Marin Community Clinics provided preventive and restorative dental services to 3,000 patients in 9,600 visits in 2009. 89% of those patients were children. In Fiscal Year 2010-2011, adult dentistry services are being expanded.

Preparing for Healthcare Reform



LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR,
Walter Kopp

National healthcare reform will result in dramatic changes for Marin Community Clinics, and we are rapidly gearing up for what's ahead.

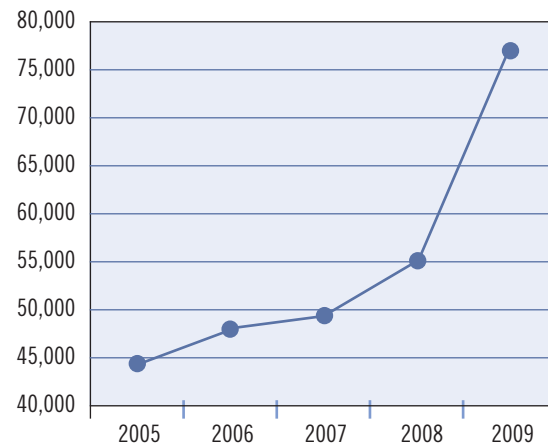
In recent years we have consistently grown and adapted to meet the changing healthcare needs of our community. Three years ago we provided 45,000 patient visits; this year that number will exceed 100,000 in our three clinics and four satellite locations throughout Marin. Because of the recession, a large number of people have lost health insurance coverage and turned to us for affordable, high-quality care. As more people become insured (such as through expanded Medi-Cal and private insurance) under healthcare reform, the demand for our services will continue to grow. Over the next five years as the healthcare reform law is implemented, we are committed to making additional investments in our facilities and operations, and to continue to respond to the changing needs of our community.

Marin Community Clinics' track record is well-established. Marin residents who access care from our clinics represent all ages and ethnicities; many have very low incomes. While the majority of our adult patients work full-time, their employers do not provide health insurance. These include workers who serve the needs of Marin residents as waiters, gardeners, house cleaners, merchants, and other essential roles. Access to good health care for these workers is crucial not only for them to be productive in their lives and jobs, but also to safeguard the health of the entire community.

Our services include not only basic medical care for adults and children, but also dental, mental health, teen services, gynecology, and specialty referrals. Due to county government budget cuts, Marin Community Clinics recently added gynecology to its expanded reproductive health program. Now, we are making plans to add obstetric services in collaboration with the County of Marin, Marin General Hospital, Prima Medical Group, and Marin Community Foundation. We are also preparing to improve access to primary care services. This will help reduce the unnecessary use of more expensive emergency room services.

In 2009, Marin Community Clinics conducted 2,100 breast health screenings and 900 cervical cancer screenings in our Women's Health Program.

Number of Clinic Visits



Creating a more cost-effective healthcare system is one intended outcome of healthcare reform. Marin Community Clinics' newest project, already underway, is implementation of a new electronic practice management and electronic health record system. This innovative use of technology will give each patient a single computerized health records in our system and give our providers fast and up-to-date information so they can deliver more efficient and better-coordinated care, including more effective management of chronic conditions.

Even with healthcare reform, some people will remain uninsured, and will continue to seek care from us. Our service to Marin's low income children, teens and adults will continue, as will our need for your ongoing enthusiastic support.

Thanks to Marin's charitable community, Marin Community Clinics continues to meet the urgent challenge of providing affordable and accessible health care. **We thank all of you who have given your financial support to Marin Community Clinics in the past, and we encourage you to continue to participate generously with us to build a healthier community.**

Our Mission:

To improve the health of our patients and community by providing high quality, cost-effective, culturally sensitive, patient-centered health care.



Thank you to these generous supporters who donated from January 1, 2010 – June 30, 2010

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Donors — continued

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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, please contact us at **415-798-3109** or give online at **www.marinclinics.org**



Donors Find Creative Ways to Give

There are many ways to give, and Marinites have found some creative and thoughtful ways to give to their community. Marin Community Clinics is grateful to all the wonderful people who have found their own unique ways to give. Here are some of the creative ways that our neighbors have put their community first.

- **Julie Busch** organized a neighborhood yard sale in Corte Madera and donated all the proceeds (over \$1,800!) to Marin Community Clinics.
- The **Novato Presbyterian Women** rallied their church members to raise funds specifically for new toys and furnishings in the Children's Waiting Room in the Novato Clinic.
- **Rebecca Strull** and **Jared Colin** of San Rafael dedicated their Bat Mitzvah and Bar Mitzvah, respectively, to Marin Community Clinics. They asked their guests to donate to the clinics in lieu of gifts, demonstrating at a young age the philanthropic spirit that will guide them as adults.
- **Ari Rieger** of Mill Valley collected over 500 books for pediatric patients in one day in his neighborhood. The books were shared among the Greenbrae, San Rafael and Novato clinics to help promote literacy and keep our young patients occupied during their doctor visits.
- **Judie Shaw**, who regularly volunteers at the Novato clinic reading to children and maintaining the bookshelves, collected more than 70 handmade baby blankets and hats from **Marin Stitchers** of the Presbyterian Church of Novato and **Knit Wits** of the United Methodist Church of Novato. Newborns and children in Novato will be warm and cozy for a long time, thanks to Judie's generous neighbors.
- **Brandon Bay** has collected and donated thousands of Beanie Babies to the pediatric patients of Marin Community Clinics for more than four years. In 6th grade he started his own nonprofit, called Bay Kids Toy Project, and began collecting and packaging new Beanie Baby toys, bringing a little cheer and comfort to the children who may be frightened by a doctor visit or immunizations. Now in high school, the giving continues, and the beanies just keep coming.



Who We Are:

Federally Qualified Health Centers

Marin Community Clinics is a community health center and a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), which are types of health care providers defined by federal statutes and overseen by the Health Resources and Services Administration. There are two FQHC's in Marin; Coastal Health Alliance serves rural communities in West Marin. Community health centers have been a critical component of the U.S. health care safety net since they were authorized by the federal government over forty years ago.

As an FQHC, Marin Community Clinics meets health outcome and financial performance standards and follows federal guidelines related to offering sliding scale discounts, collecting fees for services, and having over half of our governing board comprised of patient members. We receive federal grant funding (which helps meet the gap from discounted fees) and other benefits including free vaccines for children and special malpractice insurance coverage.

FQHC's are charged with directly, or through referrals, providing comprehensive primary health care to people of all ages, including mental health, oral health, and obstetrics services. Marin Community Clinics currently provides each of those services on-site with the exception of obstetrics. As noted in Walter Kopp's column, planning is underway to include obstetric care at our clinics.

Please visit our website at www.marinclinics.org

- ❖ SPOTLIGHT on Dr. John Boland and Dr. Louis Geissberger, dentists who have advised in the development of our Dental Clinics.
- ❖ Photos of Novato Dental clinic renovation progress
- ❖ Photos of Summer Solstice Celebration



Patients & Visits by Site		Patients	Visits
	Greenbrae	7,590	26,611
	Novato	6,022	19,218
	San Rafael	10,928	30,997
	Total	24,540	76,826
Patients by Age			
	Children (ages 0-12)	9,535	= 39%
	Teens (ages 13-19)	2,362	= 10%
	Adults (ages 20-64)	11,402	= 46%
	Seniors (65 and over)	1,241	= 5%
	Total	24,540	
Patients by Gender			
	Female	13,335	= 55%
	Male	11,205	= 45%
Patients by Federal Poverty Level*			
	Less than 200% FPL	21,102	= 86%
	Above 200% FPL	3,438	= 14%
	Total	24,540	
*In 2009 FPL is \$10,830 for an individual, \$22,050 for a family of four.			
200% FPL is \$21,660 for an individual, \$44,100 for a family of four.			

Who We Serve

During the past three years, more people have sought the affordable health care services that Marin Community Clinics offers. This is a reflection of the nationwide economic downturn.

It's important to know that federal poverty level (FPL) is \$10,830 for an individual and \$22,050 for a family of four. Federal laws dictate that, to qualify for public-funded insurances and sliding scale discounts, patients must earn less than 200% FPL and meet other criteria such as being disabled or having a dependent child who is a minor. As you can imagine, it is very difficult to make ends meet at those income levels, particularly considering Marin's high cost of living. Many people earn less than 200% FPL yet do not qualify for public insurance; those people pay a sliding scale fee for services, based on family size, income and assets.

From 2007 to 2009, the total number of patients visiting Marin Community Clinics almost doubled, increasing from 13,571 to 24,540. (And thanks to our capital campaign donors, we have the facilities to accommodate those visits.) Many of our patients previously had private health insurance through their employers, but lost coverage when they lost their jobs. Many patients had never before received care at a community health center, and have been pleasantly surprised by the excellent care they receive from the staff and Board-certified clinicians at Marin Community Clinics. With your financial support, we will continue to serve uninsured patients in our clinics.



marin community clinics

Administrative Office

P.O. Box 1868
Novato, CA 94948-1868

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:
415-448-1500**

www.marinclinics.org

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Our Community Champion



Suzy Coxhead

We are proud to announce that Suzy Coxhead is our Community Champion for Fall 2010. Over the past 16 years, Suzy has enthusiastically shared her skills, serving as a Board member, Co-chair of our 30th Anniversary Gala, and Cabinet member of our successful *Building a Healthy Future* Capital Campaign. In addition to her longstanding involvement with Marin Community Clinics, Suzy served as an elected Director of the Marin Healthcare District Board from 1994 -2006 and is a member of the Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership’s Civic Engagement Leadership Team.

Suzy and her husband Stone have lived in Marin since 1972. After several years in commercial banking, Suzy put her considerable talents to work in the nonprofit world. It was during her tenure at the Healthcare District Board that Suzy learned about Marin Community Clinics. She immediately became an advocate, encouraging the District’s financial support as well as becoming a donor herself. While on our

Board of Directors, Suzy enlisted the support of several Marin physicians and others as major donors.

As a well-known and greatly respected member of our community, Suzy was able to draw several major donors to our capital campaign. She was on hand to celebrate the openings of the new San Rafael and Novato clinics. Always willing to lend support however she can, Suzy sponsored and attended our Summer Solstice Celebration this year to raise funds for our pediatric program. “Marin Community Clinics’ model of delivering health care is the right model for our country,” she says.

We are proud that Suzy and Stone have included our organization in their estate plans, so that our services continue to be available to those in need. Executive Director John Shen said, “We are grateful to Suzy for her many efforts on behalf of Marin Community Clinics, and to Suzy and Stone for their generous support.”

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