

# The Free Clinic Times

## OAFC Board of Directors:

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North Coast Health Ministry

*Paul Baumgartner (Treasurer)*  
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*Kathryn Clark*  
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National City Bank

*Joan Nerderman, O.D.*  
OSU College of Optometry  
The Ohio State University at  
the Faith Mission Eye Clinic

*Elaine Ewald*  
Madison County Hospital

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## Free Clinic Impact Stories...

By *Katie Clark, CMA Physician's  
Free Clinic*

As the Nurse Coordinator of the Columbus Medical Association Physicians Free Clinic, I have been aware of the dramatic impact that our clinic has on the lives of our patients for many years. Only recently has it dawned on me that our clinic has a profound impact on our volunteers as well.

One of our newer volunteers is a wife and a young mother of three children. She has an educational background in computers and works as an IT professional.

However, she has always had a dream of becoming a physician. She decided to volunteer at the Physicians Free Clinic (PFC) to test the waters. She recently shared with me that volunteering at the clinic had changed her life. She can hardly wait for Monday evenings to roll around and her husband and children have noticed a positive change in her mood. She has now made the decision to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor. She attributes her new outlook to her hours of volunteer experience at the PFC.

You could say that volunteering is part of the DNA of our free clinic. Our clinic started thirteen years ago by the physician members of the Columbus Medical Association who wanted to help low-income patients having a difficult time accessing episodic and specialty health care. Our clinic is funded by the generosity of these same physicians through the Columbus Medical Association Foundation. In fact, physicians must belong to the CMA to qualify as a physician volunteer.

*We started to see patients take an interest in volunteering at PFC and have found many patients who wanted to come back when they were feeling better to volunteer their talents at our clinic.*

The PFC has had strong support from volunteer physician's spouses as well.

Over the years the PFC has had many wonderful volunteers, including families coming to help, business people, high school students and college students. The fabric of our



volunteer tapestry has become very colorful as the diversity of our community has changed. Last year a decision was made to try a unique tool to encourage volunteerism at PFC. It started with an opportunity I had to hear a gifted teacher named John McKnight. He spoke about individual capacity inventories. I was so inspired with this tool that, with the help of two professors from OSU School of Allied Health Professionals, Dr. Anne Kloos and Dr. Sharon Flinn, and their physical and occupational therapy students, we embarked on a brave project. Students began to assess the talents and skills of patients using the individual capacities inventory. We started seeing patients take an interest in volunteering at PFC, and many have wanted to come back and volunteer their talents at our clinic.

In the seven years that I have worked at the CMA Physicians Free Clinic, I have had the privilege of meeting some extraordinary volunteers. Our clinic serves a vital role in the safety net for health care for our community as well as offering meaningful life enriching volunteer opportunities.

## OAFC Welcomes New Staff!

The Ohio Association of Free Clinics recently hired a part-time program assistant, Lynn W. Slawsky. Lynn's responsibilities include administrative support, proposal writing, special event coordination, and newsletter writing.

Asked of her interest in OAFC, Lynn remarked that "after attending the annual conference in October, I was impressed with all that free clinics around Ohio are doing to provide critical services. It will be my pleasure to serve our members and to ensure maximum impact for all low-income uninsured Ohioans."

Lynn has a broad background in non-profit work. Most recently, she worked with the Women's Fund of Central Ohio, as assistant to the Grants Manager. While there she learned about various funding opportunities for health-related causes, which she hopes to pursue while working at OAFC.

Lynn has previous nonprofit experience related to small business development within immigrant communities around Columbus. She also completed an AmeriCorps commitment of teaching healthy cooking and physical activity lessons to low-income children around Columbus.

Lynn graduated from The Ohio State University in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in International Development, and minors in Women's Studies and Political Science. Lynn said her values provide direction, and that she wants to "promote development in my own community of Columbus and Ohio."

Besides working, Lynn enjoys walking along the Olentangy River bike trail, painting scenes from her walks, visiting local art exhibits, and traveling. She can be reached at [Islawsky@ohiofreeclinics.org](mailto:Islawsky@ohiofreeclinics.org) or (614) 221-6494.

## President's Letter

Greetings!

Every year our conference affords us the opportunity to gather and learn from each other, share resources and be enriched from others in the state willing to share their experiences with us. I am so encouraged by all the services and proud of all the work that the free clinics are doing around our state to serve the uninsured and underserved. We celebrate our uniqueness and our sameness and it is true joy.

Thank you, Deb Miller and the Education Committee, Amy, presenters and guest speakers for making our conference such a great opportunity for the staff and volunteers of free clinics. I always come back energized by everyone's work.

Now we are back in our own shops working to meet the challenges of increasing needs in our communities. As an association we can work together to help each of us better serve our patients. It is my hope that you will



find where you would like to serve in our association as the committees begin their work for the new year. Please contact Amy and let her know how you are willing to help. We have opportunities ahead and we will need your input.

It has been an amazing year for our association. We now have 34 member clinics. Your dedication to service has helped us achieve successes for our communities and the patients we serve. Thank you for all your hard work. I hope you have a Blessed Christmas and Happy Holidays!

**Lee Elmore**  
**President**

## Snapshots from the Conference



# "Called to Service: Elevating Health, Enriching Lives"

## A Round-up of the Seventh Annual Ohio Association of Free Clinics Conference

For the second year in a row, participants of the Annual Ohio Free Clinic Conference unanimously declared the event "worth their time and expense." O AFC would like to thank all participants, speakers, sponsors and exhibitors for making the three day event so worthwhile!

In sum, 29 informational sessions were offered on topics ranging from fundraising and sustainability to preventative health programs and access to prescription drugs.

"This is the most comprehensive forum to exchange ideas and strategy for caring for the uninsured in Ohio," one participant said. Another thought it was, "a great opportunity to stretch yourself to learn from others who are committed to the same goals....[The

conference] refreshes and re-charges you with more energy to take back to your work at the clinics."

The O AFC annual meeting was held Monday afternoon. During this session, the changes to the Code of Regulations were adopted unanimously and new board members were elected. Board Committee reports were offered at the meeting, as well as, the Executive Director's report. Between sessions, conference participants had additional learning opportunities at the exhibitors' tables.

With so much to learn and absorb at the conference, participants were grateful for the CD that O AFC provided on Tuesday, with all presentations from the sessions included. "Thank you for providing a CD of all sessions so I didn't

have to miss anything," one participant said.

The O AFC would like to thank sponsors of the Seventh Annual Ohio Free Clinic Conference: Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, PhRMA, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton, The Nord Family Foundation, the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians Foundation, the George Gund Foundation, National City Bank, the OHC Insurance Company and the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line.

Stay tuned for updates on next year's conference, slated to be offered in Columbus, Ohio, on October 7-9, 2007.



## Awards Worth Awarding

Three awards were announced during an evening reception at the Seventh Annual Ohio Free Clinic conference, held October 23, 2006. The awards included the O AFC Servant Leadership Award, the Champion of Free Clinics Award, and the O AFC President's Award.

Dr. Roger Snyder received the Champion of Free Clinics Award for his tireless volunteer work and leadership at the Ashland Christian Health Center (ACHC). He spent many uncompensated hours assessing the needs of this community, and then became Board president when ACHC opened its doors in 2003. He recently developed a multidisciplinary pain clinic as a program of ACHC, which educates patients about alternative pain management.

The Champion of Free Clinics Award is offered each year to honor individuals whose dedication and achievement related to health care provide outstanding service

and leadership models for free clinics around the state.

O AFC honored Lee Elmore, RN, with the Servant Leadership Award. The honor was established this year with the belief that, according to Robert K. Greenleaf, "the servant-leader is servant first.... that person is sharply different from one who is leader first. The difference manifests itself in the care taken by the servant-first to make sure that other people's priority needs are being served."

Elmore, who has worked for 20 years at North Coast Health Ministry, became Executive Director in 1995. She also was a founding trustee of the Ohio Association of Free Clinics, and currently serves as Board president.

Amy Rohling McGee, MSW, received the O AFC President's Award

in appreciation of extraordinary dedication and commitment to Ohio free clinics. After more than four years as the Executive Director of the O AFC, her leadership has enhanced the quantity and quality of services at free clinics around Ohio. McGee's work ranges from planning conferences and seminars, developing legislative relationships, raising funds and providing technical assistance to member free clinics. She is also active with numerous coalitions that focus on issues related to health and human services.

Deb Miller conveys 2006 Champion of Free Clinic Award to Dr. Roger Snyder of the Ashland Christian Health Center.



# Growing Season: The Life of a Migrant Community

When photographer Gary Harwood first stepped onto the K.W. Zellers family farm in Hartville, Ohio to take pictures of the Mexican migrant workers there, he did not expect to find such a strong, tightly knit community. Over the next five years he used his camera to study the lives and work of these migrants in their northeastern Ohio home. His artful photography captures the migrants' portraits and movingly conveys their great pride in work and family, their struggles and joys.

Harwood gave a moving presentation of the photography taken for the book at the Seventh Annual Ohio Free Clinic Conference on October 23, 2006.

Accompanying these vibrant photographs are revealing first-person narratives written by David Hassler. The voices of the migrants and community members are eloquent testaments to the importance of the culture, the resilience of the people, and the power of the place. In photos and stories, *Growing Season*, celebrates the work and play and religious, medical, familial, and communal experiences of these workers—young, old, male, female—and offers readers a success story. A part of our American landscape, these people and the dedicated, caring group of volunteers who support them teach all of us about dignity and humanity.

Gary Harwood has been a photographer for Kent State University for more than 22 years and chief photographer since 1987. David Hassler is the program and outreach director for the Wick Poetry Center at Kent State University, where he teaches and conducts writing workshops in local school and senior centers. The migrant workers profiled in the book are served by Hartville Migrant Ministries, a member of the OAFK.

Copies of *Growing Season* are available from Kent State University Press at <http://upress.kent.edu/books/Harwood.htm>.

## Ohioans Support Smoke Free Workplace Act

On November 7th, Ohio voters soundly rejected Issue 4 and strongly supported the American Cancer Society's Issue 5. This is a resounding victory for SmokeFreeOhio and a historic step towards improving the health of Ohio workers and customers.

"We are so grateful to Ohio voters who saw past the tobacco companies' smokescreen and voted to create a healthier future for Ohio workers and future generations. Tobacco companies spent millions, but could not defeat thousands of passionate volunteers from across the state who worked countless hours to make this dream a reality," said Tracy Sabetta, co-chair of SmokeFreeOhio's Issue 5 campaign.

The SmokeFree Workplace Act will officially be on the books 30 days after the election. It may take a little longer for the Ohio Department of Health to craft rules to enforce Issue 5. Ohio is the 15th state to pass strong smoke-free laws which protect all workers, including those in bars and restaurants. Several countries have smoke-free laws, including Italy, Ireland, and Scotland.

Issue 4 was a constitutional amendment that would have allowed smoking in restaurants, bowling

alleys, and other public places. Because it was a constitutional amendment, it would have trumped Issue 5 if both issues passed. Issue 4 would have overturned local smoke-free laws in 21 Ohio communities. It would have made it unconstitutional to protect the health of half a million Ohio hospitality workers. The Issue 4 campaign received 99.8% of its funding from R.J. Reynolds Tobacco.

Issue 5 was a campaign led by the American Cancer Society, along with the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the Ohio Hospital Association, the Ohio State Medical Association, and more than 575 businesses, churches, and health groups.

The Ohio Association of Free Clinics endorsed the Smoke Free Ohio campaign. While OAFK is a non-partisan organization, endorsements of issues related to health care are within the scope of our advocacy.



## Cardinal Health Foundation Funding of QI Initiative

The OAFc recently received a grant from the Cardinal Health Foundation for a Quality Improvement Initiative targeted toward free clinics. The goal of this 12-month project is to enhance and standardize the services provided by member clinics. As a beginning step, the OAFc's Quality Improvement Committee recently created Ohio Free Clinic Guidelines. With funding from the Cardinal Health Foundation, the OAFc will collect, revise and create templates, forms and other information related to the Guidelines and create a "members only" section of the OAFc Website where these will be posted. By October 2007 40% of OAFc members are expected to meet the expectations laid out in the Guidelines. The OAFc will conduct workshops, site visits, and conference calls with members in order to implement the Guidelines.

## Free Clinic Medical Liability Insurance Reimbursement Program

Applications Due January 31, 2007!

The Ohio Department of Health has mailed applications for the 2007 Free Clinic Medical Liability Insurance Reimbursement Program. Free clinics may apply between January 1, 2007 and January 31, 2007 to receive reimbursement for up to 80% of its medical liability insurance premiums with a cap of \$20,000 per clinic.

A free clinic is eligible to receive reimbursement under the medical liability insurance reimbursement program for the premiums that the clinic pays for medical liability insurance coverage for the clinic, its staff, and volunteer health care professionals and health care workers. The coverage provided under the program is limited to claims that arise out of the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients of free clinics. Free clinics are defined by the following:

- Free clinics are nonprofit organizations (501

(c)(3)) that provide health care services for free or for a minimal administrative fee to individuals with limited resources.

- A free clinic facilitates the delivery of health care services through the use of volunteer health care professionals and voluntary care networks.
- Free clinics that request a minimal administrative fee do not deny services based on ability to pay the fee. Free clinics do not bill patients for services rendered.
- Free clinics do not perform operations.
- A clinic is not a free clinic if third party payers are billed and 25% or more of the clinic's revenue comes from third party payments.

The application for the program is available at [www.ohiofreeclinics.org](http://www.ohiofreeclinics.org). Questions may be directed to either Amy Rohling McGee at the OAFc or Phil Styer at the Ohio Department of Health (614) 644-8063.



## Census Data Show Disturbing Trends

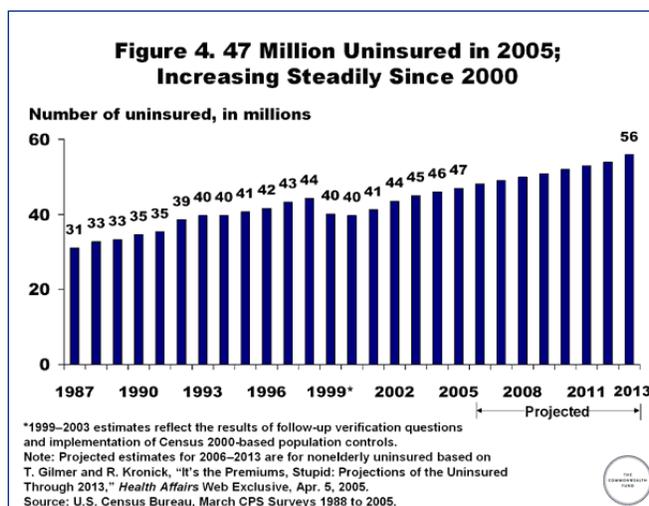
Census Data released in August 2006 showed an increase in both the number of uninsured Ohioans and the number of Ohioans who are living in poverty. The number of uninsured Ohioans grew from almost 1.3 million in 2004 to nearly 1.4 million in 2005.

The data also shows that, although 2005 marked the fourth full year of growth in the national economy, poverty in Ohio increased from 11.6% in 2004 to 12.3% in 2005. The number of Ohioans in poverty has swelled by 293,000 since 2002. Two Ohio cities—Cleveland and Cincinnati—made

the list of the top ten poorest larger cities in America.

The Census Bureau data showed that the number of uninsured Americans stood at a record 46.6 million in 2005, with 15.9% of Americans lacking health coverage. "The number of uninsured Americans reached an all-time high in 2005," said Robert Greenstein, executive director of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. "It is

sobering that 5.4 million more people lacked health insurance in 2005 than in the recession year of 2001, primarily because of the erosion of employer-based insurance."





## Ohio Association of Free Clinics

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### Dates To Remember:

January 11,  
2007:

#### Free Clinic Leaders Forum

Topic: Tools for Assessing  
Program Costs

October 7-9, 2007:  
Eighth Annual OAFc  
Conference



## *OAFc Membership Increases by 21% in 2006*

Membership in the OAFc increased from 28 to 34 during 2006, the largest one year increase since the Association started. This increase can be attributed to several factors, including recognition of free clinics as a viable, cost effective method of providing care to the uninsured, a growing need for affordable and accessible health care services, and acknowledgement of the many benefits of belonging to the Association. The free clinics that joined in 2006 include: Helping Hands Health and Wellness Center (Franklin County), Oxford College Corner Clinic, Compassion Medical Clinic of Williams County, University Family Physicians Race Track Clinic, Jefferson County Fourth Street Health Center, and Hartville Migrant Ministries.

## *Closing the Deal* By Holly Hall

(From *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, July 13, 2006—  
Excerpts reprinted with permission)

Lewis B. Cullman, a New York philanthropist, and his wife, Dorothy, have given away at least \$250-million—and helped charities raise millions of dollars more. Cullman [has created a new] guide, “How to Succeed in Fundraising By Really Trying,” a brochure intended to helping charity board members and others who solicit gifts of \$1-million or more in capital campaigns or other big fund-raising projects.

The pamphlet’s tone is straightforward and brief, the same qualities Mr. Cullman appreciates in the solicitations he receives. The text of Mr. Cullman’s brochure and sample fund-raising letters may be downloaded from his Web site at <http://www.lewiscullman.com>.