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AmeriCares

88 Hamilton Avenue
Stamford, CT 06902-3100

The mission of AmeriCares Free Clinics is to provide free quality health care to uninsured residents in a setting where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect. The intention of AmeriCares Free Clinics is to help those who are making a sincere effort to help themselves and their families, but who do not have the financial resources for medical care.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE CONNECTICUT EVENTS

July 15 & 16: Sail the Sound in Norwalk Harbor

Enjoy a 30-minute sail departing from the Norwalk Cove Marina. The \$25 donation benefits AmeriCares Free Clinic of Norwalk.

October 1: Larson's Farm Market Corn Maze, Brookfield

This "a-maiz-ing" autumn experience is a family delight, a winding journey that benefits the AmeriCares Free Clinic of Danbury. Adults, \$15; under age 13, \$12; under 3, free.

November 3-5: Holiday Treasures & Pleasures, AmeriCares, Stamford

Annual sale of decorative holiday accessories donated by Pound Ridge Nursery benefits the AmeriCares Free Clinics. Shop early and take advantage of pre-season prices.

January 7, 2007: Marvelous Mozart VI, First Presbyterian Church, New Canaan

The melodious sounds of Mozart, via the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra, with pianist Deborah Lee.

AMERICARES FREE CLINICS STAFF

Executive Director: Karen Gottlieb, RN, MBA
Associate Director: Cathy Sheehan, RN, MPH
Associate Director, Operations: Martha Kennard
Mgr., Community Development: Deb Howard
Data Manager: Laura Galusha
Data Entry Admin.: Pat Czako

WE'RE VERY PROUD OF THE WAY WE MANAGE THE FUNDS CARING PEOPLE LIKE YOU GENEROUSLY DONATE. A copy of the latest financial statement filed by AmeriCares may be obtained by contacting AmeriCares, 88 Hamilton Ave., Stamford, CT 06902, (203) 658-9500. Some states require that special notices be included with each solicitation. If you are a resident of one of these states, you may obtain financial information or annual reports from us or directly from the state agency: in New York, Office of Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, New York 10271; in Maryland, for the cost of the copies and postage, the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401; IN NEW JERSEY, FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL BY CALLING (973) 504-6215; IN NORTH CAROLINA, A COPY OF THE LICENSE TO SOLICIT CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS AS A CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION OR SPONSOR AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CHARITABLE SOLICITATION LICENSING SECTION, NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, BY CALLING 1-888-830-4989; in Pennsylvania, residents may call the Pennsylvania Department of State at 1-800-732-0999 (in state only); for West Virginia residents, the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305; in Virginia, the State Division of Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23209; Washington State residents may obtain a copy of the last report filed with the Washington Secretary of State by calling toll free within Washington, 1-800-332-4483 (in state only); IN FLORIDA, RESIDENTS MAY CALL THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES AT 1-800-435-7352 (in state only). Our Florida Registration number is SC-00910 and since AmeriCares does not employ professional solicitors, we retain 100% of contributions and 0% is retained by such solicitors. Our license number in Michigan is 10588. **STATE OF KANSAS Registration #222F593F6SC** Office of Secretary of State, First Floor, Memorial Hall 120 S.W. 10th Avenue Topeka, KS 66612-1594. Copies of the filings with the authorities listed above can also be obtained by writing to AmeriCares at 88 Hamilton Ave., Stamford, CT 06902. Registration with any of the above agencies does not imply endorsement by the state.



AmeriCares Free Clinics

Providing free, quality health care to the uninsured

SUMMER 2006

Third Annual "Imagine" Event a Success



Photos by Greg Griffin

Left to right: John Lindgren of Wilton and Dena Steirwalt of Norwalk peruse the silent auction items; daughter and mother Annalise Tapia and Pam Levine were key organizers of the evening; Bea Friedman is the happy winner of a raffle prize

Imagine living in Fairfield County, falling sick and not having health insurance. What would you do? For thousands of local residents who face these questions, help has been found at the AmeriCares Free Clinics.

To herald and support the work of the Free Clinics, more than 200 people attended the third annual "Imagine" cocktail party and silent auction at AmeriCares Stamford headquarters this spring. More than

\$46,000 was raised to help support the clinics' growing services in Danbury, Norwalk and Bridgeport.

"The success of this event can be directly attributed to our volunteer event committee," said Deb Howard, community affairs manager for AmeriCares Free Clinics. "Through their dedicated efforts, we had more than 70 silent auction items and more than two dozen restaurants that participated in our raffle. We wouldn't have had a successful event without their hard work."

Now in its 12th year, AmeriCares Free

Clinics has one mission: to provide free, quality healthcare to Connecticut's uninsured. Through a network of 350 volunteers reinforced by strong community partnerships, the Free Clinics have delivered more than \$14 million in healthcare services in the communities they serve.

Dr. Monica Lockwood, a volunteer at the Bridgeport clinic, summed it up by saying, "What the patients get at this clinic is what all of us want: a doctor to give us a little bit of time and a little bit of care. We want a doctor to care."

IN THE NEWS

The past six months or so have been a busy time for AmeriCares Free Clinics. With the numbers of the uninsured increasing, the Free Clinics are expanding their services, hours and locations in response to the growing need.

In Danbury, the Boehringer-Ingelheim-AmeriCares Free Clinics Outreach Program was launched in late 2005, expanding the clinic's capacity to treat residents in the surrounding communities of Bethel, Brookfield and New Milford. The program is funded by a five-year \$750,000 grant from the Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation (BICF), and utilizes the AmeriCares Free Clinics Mobile Medical Unit.

In Bridgeport, plans are underway to move into permanent space before the end of 2006. The ongoing demand for the AmeriCares Free Clinics' mobile medical unit as well as the availability of donated space, was a key factor in deciding to move into new, permanent space. In just under three years, the clinic has delivered nearly \$1 million worth of medical services to local residents, confirming the need for its services.

In Norwalk, two new patient exam rooms were opened this spring, bringing the total capacity to five rooms. Complementing the additional space, the clinic received an interior paint job, brightening up the exam rooms and nurses' station with a splash of sunshine yellow. The Norwalk site was the first AmeriCares Free Clinic, and this was the first time the clinic has had a major renovation since its opening in '94.



Karen's Corner

Dear Friends,

In 1993 there were those who said, "It can't be done... you will never get the medical volunteers... it just can't be done." Think about what would have happened to the 14,000 patients who have received care at the AmeriCares Free Clinics

if we had listened to the naysayers and given up!

Our belief has been rewarded: since November 1994, we have delivered healthcare valued at over \$14 million to local residents. This has been possible with the incredible support of 350 volunteers and in-kind donations from our medical service provider partners. However, the value of AmeriCares Free Clinics cannot be measured in dollars but in the comfort it brings to those in need and in the purpose it gives to the providers of that comfort.

Our program is about taking responsibility for and being compassionate to those less fortunate in our community. It is hard to say who benefits the most from a free clinic, but I can tell you this: there is nothing stronger than the dedicated, loving heart of a volunteer. Our logo, symbolizing diversity and partnership, speaks to the patients we serve, the volunteers who give their time and expertise, and the community of donors and service contributors that make our work possible. I salute each and every one of you for the difference you make and thank you from the bottom of my heart for being part of our team.

With gratitude,

By Karen Gottlieb, RN, MBA
Executive Director
AmeriCares Free Clinics

CONGRATULATIONS!

The staff of the AmeriCares Free Clinics would like to applaud Dr. Joanna Vincent who received an "honorable mention" from the American Medical Association Foundation earlier this year. The awards honor physicians whose lives encompass the true spirit of being a medical professional: caring for people.

Sign up for the electronic version of this newsletter and help us save money on postage!
E-mail your name and address to clinicsnewsletter@americares.org with "newsletter" in the subject line.

Spotlight on Norwalk Volunteer

¿Hablas español? ¡Sí!

For Enrique Escalante, volunteering at the AmeriCares Free Clinic of Norwalk is a labor of love.



Photo by Jane Harrington

Enrique Escalante interpreting for a patient and nurse

Nearly every Saturday morning Enrique serves as an interpreter to the scores of Latino residents who come for the medical care and compassion at the Norwalk clinic.

"I love everything about it," says Enrique, a Stamford resident who was born and raised in Mexico City before coming to the U.S. for his college studies. "I love the people that I work with. They're not only very positive about what they do, but they're so helpful with the patients. Many of the nurses are there a lot – every weekend – and it is just great to be helping them help people who don't have as much as we do."

Enrique decided to use his bi-lingual capabilities to help the Spanish-speaking population about two years ago. He found the opportunity at the AmeriCares Free Clinic through a local volunteer web site. He has since discovered an unexpected benefit in donating his time.

"I'm interested in medicine and looking to go to med school," he says, noting that he plans to start in fall 2007. "The clinic's medical volunteers include me in much of what they do and they're teaching me a lot."

Enrique is employed by Pitney Bowes, which complements his volunteer efforts with a contribution to the Free Clinics through the Pitney Bowes Employee Involvement Fund.

To learn more about volunteering at the AmeriCares Free Clinic, visit the web site at www.americaresfreeclinics.org



AmeriCares Free Clinic of Norwalk
98 South Main Street, Norwalk CT
203-899-2493

Hours:

Tuesdays 1-4; Wednesdays 2-4 (peds.);
Saturdays 9-12

STAFF

Director: Barbara McCabe, APRN
Admin. Asst: Nora Briechele
Registered Nurse: Pat Porio, RN

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Norwalk Hospital, Norwalk
Radiology Associates, Quest
Diagnostics, NEON/South Norwalk
Community Center

Spotlight on Bridgeport Volunteer

Devoted to Patients

“I don’t believe most people in Connecticut have an idea of the magnitude of the uninsured,” said Dr. Peter Maher, an AmeriCares Free Clinic volunteer.

“Most people think the problem is with the registered and non-registered immigrants, but a bigger problem now is the working poor.”

Dr. Maher meets many low-income wage earners who can’t afford their employers’ healthcare plans as he does his volunteer work. He came to the Norwalk Clinic two years ago after being referred by Dr. Burt Rubin, another physician who was also donating his time. Recognizing the growing increase in the number of people lacking insurance, he now volunteers regularly at the AmeriCares Free Clinic of Bridgeport.

“It’s very satisfying,” he said. “It is a low stress atmosphere. There is plenty of support. And the need is tremendous.”

Dr. Maher worked for 35 years in internal medicine and cardiology in Greenwich, CT, before retiring in 2003. These days, he keeps busy by teaching a weekly class to fourth-year medical students at Yale, and by donating his time to the AmeriCares Free Clinics of Bridgeport and Norwalk.

“Dr. Maher makes all of our patients welcome and has a real gift for putting them at ease,” said Sharon Joslin, clinic director in Bridgeport. “Because of him, we’re able to deliver not only quality medical care but also the intangibles of compassion and dignity to our patients.”



Photo by Elizabeth Walsh

Dr. Peter Maher



**AmeriCares Free Clinic of Bridgeport
Mobile Medical Unit
888-736-3435 (call for locations)**

Hours:
Tuesdays 1-4; Thursdays 12:30-3;
Saturdays 9-12

STAFF

Director: Sharon Joslin, APRN
Coordinator, Mobile Unit: Charles Jones

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Bridgeport Hospital,
St. Vincent’s Medical Center,
Quest Diagnostics

Spotlight on Danbury Volunteer

Dedicated to Nursing

You might think a 26-year career as a visiting nurse would be enough for Claire Kirby but you’d be wrong.



Photo by Chris Rowan

Claire dressing a patient's face

More than 5 1/2 years after retiring from the Visiting Nurse Association of Connecticut, Claire continues to take care of patients, only this time at the AmeriCares Free Clinic of Danbury.

The quality of care is one reason Claire volunteers each Saturday. She remembers a particular patient from a few years ago, a woman who had not seen a doctor in quite a while. Arriving at the AmeriCares Free Clinic, she was treated by an experienced physician who referred her for testing. Although she was eventually diagnosed with cancer, because of the clinic’s collaborative relationship with Danbury Hospital, she was referred to the hospital and was able to receive treatment.

Another reason Claire gives up her Saturdays is the camaraderie she has found among her fellow volunteers and clinic staff. “The people that I work with are great,” she says, citing their dedication and ability to keep things moving during a busy day.

Claire, too, is no slouch when it comes to dedication. Just how dedicated is she? Although she has a grandson at West Point, she doesn’t attend his Saturday football games so that she can fulfill her commitment to her patients and colleagues in Danbury. “I should be doing this,” she says.



**AmeriCares Free Clinic of Danbury
198 Main Street, Danbury CT
203-748-6188**

Hours: Wednesdays 12-7; Saturdays 9-12
Call for hours for the mobile clinic in
Bethel, Brookfield & New Milford

STAFF

Director: Dina Valenti, RN
Admin. Assts: John Weggeman, Chris Regan
Registered Nurse: Judy Hottle, RN
Nurse Practitioner: Geraldine McGuirk, APRN

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Danbury Hospital, Danbury
Office of Physician Services,
Danbury Radiology Associates,
Danbury Housing Authority