

News Briefs

Santa Fe Community Foundation funds the Healthy Child Initiative

In a very competitive funding environment, LFMC received a \$25,000 grant from the Santa Fe Community Foundation to support the Healthy Child Initiative. The HCI provides comprehensive medical, dental, prenatal care and health education for 1,000 uninsured and underinsured expectant mothers and 5,000 infants in the Santa Fe area. We are grateful for their ongoing support.

Did you know the Lions Club collects used eye glasses and sends them to people all over the world? After the 2004 tsunami, millions of people lost their glasses and were unable to see properly. The Lions Club collected thousands of glasses for victims of that disaster.

There is a drop box in our Alto Street waiting area for people to donate glasses they are no longer using. The Lions Club folks will collect them and send them to people in need.

Many thanks to **New Mexico Bank & Trust** for a \$1,500 grant to purchase 500 digital thermometers. Now our parents can easily report to our nurses if their child is running a fever!

Immunization stuff

LFMC's staff would like to express our appreciation on behalf of our obstetrics/new mom population to **Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center** for the donation of 400 flu vaccines. Many thanks!

Welcome New Baby!

On August 17th La Familia's Dr. Bill Edwards and his wife, Julie, welcomed Graham Stephen Edwards into the world. Graham was born at University of New Mexico Hospital but two days later, LFMC's Maite Redondo-Cladera, Certified Family Nurse Practitioner and Certified Nurse Midwife examined the baby and noticed a click in his hip joint. When the click was still there at one week, Maite noted it to Bill and Julie. "I didn't think too much about it at first," Bill reports. "The doctor had some initial concerns about Max, our older boy, when he was born, but he didn't have a click."



But when the click was still there at one month, Maite referred the Edwards to an orthopedist who diagnosed hip dysplasia through an ultrasound. Now at three months, Graham is wearing a brace called a "Pavlik Harness" to keep his hip joint in place as he grows.

"Hip dysplasia (acetabular dysplasia is the medical term) can result in the need for a hip replacement later in life," Maite reports, "it is much better to catch this condition now." "He likes the brace," Dr. Edward adds "and we are grateful to Maite."

• New Faces at LFMC •



Jim Lutz became La Familia's new Medical Director this past July but his association with LFMC dates back to 2004 when he was hired as a Staff Physician at the Alto Clinic. From 2007 to July 2010, Dr. Lutz served as the Medical Director at LFMC's Health Care for the Homeless program.

"I appreciated being offered the Medical Director position because it is an opportunity to have a greater impact on the direction that La Familia takes. That is the challenge I was offered. I do miss the direct contact with the patients that I had at HCH," Dr. Lutz said.

After graduating from University of New Mexico Medical School, Lutz did his residency in Family Practice with the Northern New Mexico Family Practice Program.

One of the primary challenges that Dr. Lutz has undertaken is hiring new providers to serve our growing patient population. In addition to recruitment, a major goal is to convert LFMC to electronic medical records.

OUR MISSION

La Familia Medical Center is a community health center providing high-quality comprehensive medical, dental, and health-education services to everyone, with special emphasis on the underserved. These services are affordable and culturally sensitive and are delivered in a manner respectful of the patient's privacy, rights, and dignity, regardless of their financial resources.

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Alto Street Clinic

1035 Alto Street
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 982-4425

Southside Clinic

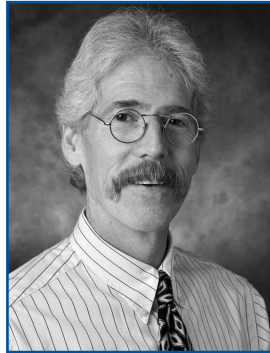
2145 Caja del Oro Grant Road
Santa Fe, NM 87507
(505) 438-3195

Health Care for the Homeless

818 Camino Sierra Vista
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505) 988-1742

Established in 1972, La Familia Medical Center is a not-for-profit, 501 C (3) organization devoted to providing high quality, culturally sensitive medical and dental services to the whole community.

CEO'S MESSAGE



La Familia Medical Center is granted Federally Qualified Health Center status by meeting standards and abiding by the requirements of the national Bureau of Primary Health Care. Whereas functioning as part of the nation's healthcare safety net our patient population is immense and unlimited, while serving as the "community health center" our local character is perhaps more identifiable.

Some examples of our local character...

A longtime community member, volunteering doctoring skills and songstress talents at other Santa Fe venues, it is La Familia Medical Center's privilege to claim Dr. Sue Katz as one of our dedicated physicians for 20 years now.

Newer members of LFMC are "Jeremiah" (delivered by one of our midwives) and his brother "David". Accessing comprehensive services, their parents Dominique and Nicole (the smiling cashier at a midtown community grocery) say "Our family goes there for everything." Respectful of the Community Health Center's patient load, she says the wait-time for appointments is worth "the affordable care" at La Familia.

Identifying with New Mexican culture is a comforting feature of our waiting rooms and exam rooms. Our nonprofit is fortunate to count the contributions of *artisanos norteo* as assets, along with donations of art from Plaza and Railyard gallery artists.

Characteristic of our community-wide patient mix, side by side for their appointments, a shy south-county woman who was referred to LFMC for a second opinion is comforted when a woman who lives near downtown introduces herself as "an established Medicare patient".

La Familia Medical Center is here for the county farmers and other rural industry workers, who may or may not have health insurance; and city gardeners at the community garden that grace the path to our front door. Their harvest of cabbage, peppers, tomatoes and squash has been shared with LFMC staff and neighbors near the Alto Street site.

Of course, Health Care for the Homeless is exemplary of a community service provided by LFMC; and, in turn, one of our dedicated Board members identifies himself as coming from the ranks of the homeless.

In-kind support by family operated businesses from paint stores and pizza parlors to a small graphic design company and from church circles and social clubs is an expression of the local character connected to our Community Health Center.

Kind regard for LFMC comes in passing conversations with residents--like the Community College student working at the neighborhood coffee counter, the chimney-sweep whose family hails from Chupadero, the retired mail carrier for a westside residential area, and the newcomer couple moving into their dream home who noticed LFMC's nearby "nice place on Caja del Oro Grant Road".

Coming full circle, most recently, while purchasing a token of appreciation for Dr. Katz's tenure with us, when the new restaurateur realized the gift certificate was for a LFMC physician he said "They do good work there" -- a gratifying example of the local character identified with La Familia Medical Center.

• More New Faces at LFMC •



Laura Brown, MD, MPH, accepted the position of Medical Director at La Familia's Health Care for the Homeless clinic earlier this year when Dr. James Lutz asked her to be his replacement. He undoubtedly was aware of her passion for serving the neediest people in our community because, among other accomplishments,

Laura had designed and implemented a suboxone program to treat opiate addicts at her previous job with New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) in Santa Fe. "I am committed to working with the underserved" is how Laura describes her career in community medicine.

Laura earned both her MD and MPH (Masters in Public Health) from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. She did her family practice residency with UNM's 1 + 2 program, with two years at La Familia Medical Center in 1998-2000. Since that time, she has primarily worked for NMDOH, but has also been a locums provider at LFMC and Health Centers of Northern New Mexico (now El Centro Family Health).

Clearly Laura is not one to shy away from a challenge. On Halloween, Laura, her husband Rick and their four-year old son Merrick traveled to Kazakhstan to adopt a baby.



Nancy Phillips joined La Familia Medical Center on September 20th as our new Development Director. Nancy has a Bachelor of Arts degree (English Literature) and a Masters of Arts degree (British History) from the University of Illinois, Chicago.

She has been involved in professional fundraising activities since the 1980s. Most recently, Nancy served as the Development Director for Santa Fe Habitat for Humanity. In addition to working many years with Montessori Schools, as a teacher, administrator and board member, Nancy has worked for Planned Parenthood and at Mt. Zion Hospital in San Francisco as the administrator for continuing education courses for physicians.



Dorothy Whelchel assumed the position of Billing & Collections Supervisor at the end of July, beginning her first "paid" employment in Santa Fe. She came from Agoura Hills, CA two years ago to care for her mother through two knee replacement surgeries but now has settled here with her son, Jacob, age 14, and his father.

Dorothy has a B.A. in Business Administration from Cal State Northridge. Her professional background has been largely working for the insurance industry as a trainer and auditor in claims processing both at Blue Cross and P.I.A., Inc. La Familia will undoubtedly benefit from her experience on the insurance side.

She has taken to the slower pace in Santa Fe, recalling that a twenty minute drive to work in Southern California would take sixty minutes during rush hour.



Ali Azizi, MD, MPH, took on some serious challenges before he came to New Mexico to begin his Family Medicine Residency with the Northern New Mexico Rural Family Medicine Residency program. He has worked as a visiting or volunteer physician in Swaziland and Angola. He designed and implemented

a national nursing and midwifery education system in Afghanistan and there is more – much more than there is room for in this publication.

Born in Iran, raised in Europe and the U.S., Ali received his MD at Texas A&M and his Masters in Public Health at George Washington University in Washington D.C. Here at La Familia Dr. Azizi is completing a fourth year of residency as a hospitalist.

After living most of the last ten years abroad, Dr. Azizi is ready to settle down and "plant some roots," possibly in Santa Fe. He loves the lifestyle, the weather, the food and the scenery, but time will tell.

Additional Funding for Diabetes Education and the Healthy Child Initiative

La Familia's Diabetes Education Program received a one-year \$100,000 grant from the **Centers for Disease Control**. The program will focus on reducing obesity by increasing exercise, lowering HgA1C and promoting healthy eating choices among diabetic and borderline diabetic patients. The grant will fund a "promotora", or health educator, who will provide patient counseling. We are grateful to Senator Jeff Bingaman and his staff for helping us to secure this grant.

For the second time in two years, **The Wal-Mart Foundation** awarded LFMC \$50,000. This award was to support the Healthy Child Initiative which is a comprehensive medical, dental, prenatal education program for new mothers and children. The grant was made through the Wal-Mart States program. Thank you Wal-Mart for your ongoing support!!!

• More New Faces at LFMC •



Welcome Dr. Linda Renner

Linda is a graduate of Eldorado High School in Albuquerque and New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. She received her dental degree at the University Of Colorado School Of Dentistry in Denver.

She spent over six years in the Indian Health Service in Nevada and Arizona and has spent the last ten years practicing dentistry at community clinics on the West Coast. Most recently she worked as an affiliate professor at the University of Washington in Seattle.

She is glad to be back home in New Mexico and looks forward to growing veggies in a sunny garden, quilting and keeping busy with her family.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Dr. Neal Devitt on his election to Fellow status in the American Association of Family Physicians (AAFP). The Degree of Fellow recognizes AAFP members who distinguish themselves among their colleagues, as well as their communities, by their service to Family Medicine. Being a Fellow signifies not only tenure but also one's additional work in the community, the teaching of Family Medicine and continued professional development.

Dr. Devitt was honored during a special Convocation Ceremony at the 2010 AAFP Scientific Assembly in Denver, Colorado.

**Congratulations to
Dr. Neal Devitt MD, FAAFP!**