

# Making Healthy Connections

*Healthcare Foundation  
of Northern Lake County*

*2007-2010 Report*



**HFNLC**

*Healthcare Foundation of  
Northern Lake County*

## *A Message from the Board Chairs and Executive Director*

June 2010 marked the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County's fourth anniversary. So much has happened since its launch that we would like to share a few significant milestones with you. In the first year we established the foundation's corporate structure and hired our executive director. In the second year we set up internal operating systems, found permanent office space, developed our funding priorities, and awarded our first grants. In the third year we hired program staff, expanded our public visibility, and increased the number of grantees and dollars awarded. In the fourth year we commissioned a survey of the Lake County nonprofit sector, and convened other foundations and corporate donors to highlight needs identified by the survey.

While formal organizational structures, policies and procedures and key relationships are now in place, the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County strives to be an innovative and learning organization. We explore and discover ways to improve access to health services for underserved Lake County, Illinois residents. We meet with community leaders to hear directly what they believe to be the greatest challenges to accessing good health services in our geographic area. We look closely at our environment in order to develop funding strategies based on research and best practices in similar communities. Finally, we invite leaders of numerous nonprofit organizations to partner with us and each other, to build a comprehensive healthcare system for uninsured, underinsured, and medically underserved residents of northern Lake County.

Thanks to our hard-working and committed nonprofit partners, more children are receiving school physicals and dental care; more adults are getting lifesaving disease screenings and health education; more families at-risk for child abuse and neglect are learning how to manage life's pressures and care for their children; more homebound seniors are getting to their doctor's visits; more health services are being provided by bilingual professionals; and more recent graduates from medical schools are establishing careers in Lake County. Yet there is still much more that must be done.

Our talented board, comprised of community members, has worked extremely hard to set up processes that assure good stewardship of financial resources, due-diligence and smart funding decisions. Mindful of the economic challenges facing our neighbors and nonprofit partners, the Board and staff view these circumstances as unique opportunities for people and organizations to collaborate in seeking new and dynamic ways to make healthcare access more secure for the most vulnerable in our community. The Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County and our nonprofit partners are prepared to act on these opportunities.

It is our great pleasure to share with you this report, and we are grateful for your partnership with us.

Sincerely,



**Suzanne McWilliams**  
*Board Chair, 2006-2010*



**William Ensing**  
*Chair Elect*



**Ernest Vasseur**  
*Executive Director*

## *Building partnerships, improving access to mental health services in the community*

### **Arden Shore Child & Family Services**

According to a recent survey of non-profit agencies in Lake County, there is a strong yet unmet need for mental health services in the county – nearly 33 percent of those who need services don't have access, with long waiting lists, shuttered facilities and economic recession all contributing factors. That's where Arden Shore Child & Family Services has stepped in to offer English and Spanish group and individual counseling to Lake County residents, focusing on children and families. Helping fuel the agency's work have been grants made by the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County, as well as connections to other organizations.

"The foundation was the first major foundation to support our work, and that support has not only funded specific programs, it's allowed us to attract dollars from other foundations," says Dora Maya, Ph.D., Arden Shore's president and CEO. "Beyond funding, our relationship with the foundation also has helped us develop productive relationships with other agencies and expand services to the community."



*"The foundation not only respects our unique capabilities, but wants to help us enhance and grow our programs."*

An example of this is Arden Shore's collaboration with Rosalind Franklin University. While the two entities' initial plan to land funding for a new children's mental health program from other sources did not work out, with help from the foundation, they found a way to work together. Last fall, the two embarked on a program that brings two clinical counseling master's students from the university to Arden Shore, allowing the agency to serve an additional 40 clients.

Another is the agency's partnership with Nicasa, a substance abuse program. While in its beginning stages, the plan is for the agencies to provide reciprocal services to each other's clients.

Arden Shore's longer-term goal is to establish a family center with a variety of prevention programs, delivered in conjunction with its new partners. Helping the agency take this from concept to reality is HFNLC.

"The foundation not only respects our unique capabilities, but wants to help us enhance and grow our programs," says Maya. "We're glad to tap into its wealth of knowledge and vision to help shape our future."



## *Long-standing partnership connects community to vital resources*



### **HealthReach, Incorporated**

HealthReach operates free clinics in Mundelein and Waukegan and a pharmacy in Libertyville for uninsured county residents. It was founded by a group of doctors who practiced at Victory Memorial Hospital and St. Therese Medical Center, the same hospitals whose sale created the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County in 2006.

The foundation has continued and grown its financial and strategic planning collaboration with HealthReach, allowing the organization to expand its primary care operations. Its grants have helped operate the onsite laboratory, provide diagnostic testing and chronic disease management services, offer disease screenings and educational activities at various community events, expand the eye health program and hire bilingual medical assistants.

“The grants the foundation provides allows us to be a culturally competent and comprehensive medical home for more than 4,000 patients,” says James Zimmerman, executive director, HealthReach. “It also has been a wonderful resource for us, connecting us with other organizations, people and resources that we might not have known about, advocating on our behalf with other foundations, and bringing us together with other healthcare providers to improve and sustain the healthcare safety net in the county.”

And tending to that safety net is critical: an estimated 111,000 Lake County residents are uninsured, plus an undetermined number of undocumented individuals, while the current network of healthcare providers serves only between 55,000 to 60,000.

The clinic and its healthcare partners are able to provide a continuum of care to patients who might not otherwise be diagnosed with or treated for serious illnesses, including brain aneurisms, prostate cancer and diabetic retinopathy. Primary care, diagnostic and follow-up treatment are managed by the clinic, while its partners provide surgical and other medical services off-site. Through it all, patients can rely on HealthReach staff to guide them through the maze of appointments, medications, healthcare professionals and other issues.

Not only does the foundation provide direct support to HealthReach programs, it also provides grants to other agencies that in turn work with the clinics, including Rosalind Franklin University's physician assistant scholarship program. Students volunteer their time at the clinic, and graduates have come to work on staff. Zimmerman says it's a full cycle of support, education and employment that's been generated by the coordinated efforts of the foundation.

“The relationship with the foundation goes far beyond grant money,” says Zimmerman. “It is a collaborative and strategic relationship that has done so much to strengthen and enhance the county's healthcare resources.”



*“The relationship with the foundation goes far beyond grant money.”*

## Helping deliver healthy resources beyond doctors' offices

### Mano a Mano Family Resource Center

Mano a Mano, Spanish for “hand in hand”, is a fitting name for an organization that emphasizes bringing health resources directly to the people of Round Lake, be it in clinical settings or far beyond.

One such example is its health education program, which trains community health educators to host small-group health presentations in homes, churches, HeadStart locations, community centers – anywhere people gather. In the program's first year in 2008, a Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County grant helped train 10 women, who in turn made 84 health education presentations to a total of 610 of their neighbors. The presentations – which give information and advice on a number of topics, including diabetes, hypertension and nutrition – also offer child care and nutritious snacks to participants. And, they work: pre- and post-event surveys showed that 94 percent of attendees were very likely to engage in a healthy behavior related to the presentation, and an 81 percent improvement in attendees' knowledge about the subject covered.

The program's positive effects not only touch attendees, but the educators themselves. According to Carolina Duque, Mano a Mano's executive director, several have declared their intentions to return to school to take up health-related careers.

The connections don't stop there. Foundation grants have made it possible for Mano a Mano to provide AllKids and Medicaid insurance application assistance to individuals and families, thus opening the door to other health care resources; deliver translation services onboard the Northwestern/Lake Forest Hospital's mobile health clinic, CareCoach; and host health fairs around the community. A back-to-school fair in July 2010, attended by more than 2,000 people, provided school physicals and immunizations to more than 140 children, while 100 parents received free health screenings.



*“Our work with the foundation has been a really wonderful investment in the Round Lake area and in the Latino community in particular...”*

“The foundation's support has not only allowed Mano a Mano to connect more people to quality health information, treatment and other resources, it has helped connect our organization to the larger health care network in the community,” says Duque. “Our work with the foundation has been a really wonderful investment in the Round Lake area and in the Latino community in particular, getting valuable health education and resources out there to help people live better.”



## Growing Lake County's professional healthcare provider pipeline, improving access to care



The university's efforts to expand access to quality health care go even further. In a county with only 421 primary care doctors (only half of whom are family care/internists, most in private practice) and an increasing unmet need for physician assistants, the university sought to build the community's healthcare professional pipeline. Its answer was its physician assistant scholarship program, launched in 2007 and funded in part by grants from HFNLC, which provides a full two-year tuition reimbursement to recipients who agree to practice in Lake County for at least two years after graduation.

### Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science

As the only healthcare educational institution in the county, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science understands the critical role it plays in growing the area's medical professional ranks and helping improve access to health care services for underserved residents of Lake County.

One of the university's partners in its efforts is the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County, supporting its Healthy Families Clinic and physician assistant scholarship program.

In the clinic, doctoral-level psychology and physician assistant students work with professional staff to provide medical and mental health services to individuals and families. Clients are referred to the clinic through agencies like the Community Action Partnership and the Waukegan HealthReach clinic that now houses the operation. Healthy Families takes a holistic approach, offering clients – many of whom originally come seeking care for medical issues – access to mental health resources to address significant issues affecting their jobs and families, including depression and anxiety. Since 2008, the program has served more than 100 families and has a waiting list of nearly 40 more.

"Grants from the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County help make these programs possible, meshing two fields that many don't think about together," says Christine Lopez, the university's director of foundation relations. "This allows us to serve a wider spectrum of our clients' healthcare needs".



*"We know that if these students are invested in the community, they will stay and make an important difference."*

"By training these physician assistants, we can help provide more healthcare options to underserved people of Lake County," says Lopez. "Students leave school debt-free, go into the community where they're needed, and also serve as mentors to encourage young people to enter the health care field. We know that if these students are invested in the community, they will stay and make an important difference."

While in school, scholarship recipients perform community service, mentor young students in area schools and provide healthcare services at local clinics. Since its inception, the program has awarded scholarships to eight students, four of whom have graduated and currently work in Lake County, including two employed by Intervention Arms Clinic, a facility opened by a Rosalind Franklin alumnus.

## Board Members and Staff during fiscal years 2007-2010

**Sean Barden**

Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
Lake Forest Hospital

**Reginald Blount, PhD**

Senior Pastor, Trinity African Methodist  
Episcopal Church

**William A. Ensing, Esq.**

Ensing Law Firm, LTD

**Gerard Goshgarian, MD**

Greenleaf Orthopaedic Associates

**John L. Joanem, Esq.**

John L. Joanem & Associates, P.C.

**Nadine A. Johnson, CTP**

Assistant Vice President,  
First Midwest Bank

**Jacquelyn Kendall**

Executive Director, Midwest Academy

**Diane F. Klotnia, Esq.**

Miller Shakman & Beem LLP

**Rodrigo A. Manjarrés, LCPC**

Senior Therapist,  
Lake County Health Department

**Suzanne McWilliams, RN**

Civic Leader

**Jorge L. Ortiz**

Circuit Judge,  
Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court of Illinois

**Martin Paulson**

Chief County Assessment Officer  
Lake County, Illinois

**Gust Petropoulos**

Civic Leader

**DeRionne Pollard**

Vice President, Educational Affairs  
College of Lake County

**Robert F. Reusché**

Retired Vice Chairman  
The Northern Trust Company

**Wendy Rheault, PhD, PT**

Dean, College of Health Professions  
Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine  
and Science

**Rafael Rivera**

Alderman of the 9th Ward  
City of Waukegan

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**Ernest Vasseur**

Executive Director  
evasseur@hfnlc.org

**Leslie Mitchel Bond**

Program Officer  
lmbond@hfnlc.org

## Grantees for fiscal years 2007-2010

American Cancer Society – Illinois Division  
American Heart Association – Midwest Affiliate  
Arden Shore Child and Family Services  
Cancer Wellness Center  
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese  
of Chicago  
ChildServ  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Community Youth Network  
Family Service  
HealthReach  
Hospice and Palliative Care of  
Northeastern Illinois  
Independence Center

Kids Hope United – Northern Region  
Lake County Community Foundation  
Lake County Health Department  
Lake County Sponsors  
Mano a Mano Family Resource Center  
Midwest Palliative and Hospice CareCenter  
Most Blessed Trinity Church  
NorthPointe Resources, Inc.  
NorthShore University HealthSystem Foundation  
Northwestern/Lake Forest Hospital  
PADS Crisis Services  
Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine  
and Science  
St. Martin de Porres High School

Thresholds  
Uhlich Children's Advantage Network  
United Way of Lake County  
Veterans Assistance Commission of Lake County  
Waukegan Public Schools  
Waukegan Township Senior Services  
Women's Health Foundation  
YouthBuild Lake County  
YWCA Lake County  
Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center  
Zion Benton Children's Service

Details regarding grants awarded to these organizations can be found on our website at: [www.hfnlc.org/grant\\_recipients.html](http://www.hfnlc.org/grant_recipients.html)



**HFNLC**

*Healthcare Foundation of  
Northern Lake County*

114 South Genesee Street, Suite 505  
Waukegan, IL 60085  
Office: 847-377-0525  
Fax: 847-782-8351

[www.hfnlc.org](http://www.hfnlc.org)