



COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMS

healthy people • families • communities

Newsletter | Spring 2022

444 Stockbridge Road | Great Barrington, MA 01230 | chpberkshires.org | Lia Spiliotes, Chief Executive Officer

Sharing Resiliency



Greetings, Friends,

Resilience is the capacity to recover from difficulty, the ability to stand up after being knocked down.

The past two-plus years have raised hard tests of our resilience. We witnessed and participated in a pandemic crisis that has taken nearly a million U.S. lives, exposed shameful inequities in our healthcare system, tested our frontline workers and shifted our economy. At times it felt overwhelming, sad, isolating and infuriating.

But resilience has brought vaccinations, new treatments for Covid-19, improvements in telemedicine and more wisdom about how to respond to a sweeping viral illness. Resilience has helped us to focus more sharply on how to be better stewards of our community's health and wellness.

We are attracting more and more

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Mission Moment

Safe Haven: Local motel partners with CHP

Kashmira's immigrant experience brought her from her home in Gujarat India to a series of stops in Chicago and Northern Berkshire. Finally, in 2012 she arrived in 2012 in Great Barrington, where she took a job helping to run a motel owned by her uncle. Soon, she met and married Krunal, and now have two young daughters.

Their new home and work, both at the Great Barrington Travelodge, are down the street from CHP Family Services. There, Kashmira found medical care for herself and family. Then, she met the Family Services team that opens doors for so many parents: Kashmira found WIC nutrition benefits, parent-child playgroups, a clothing exchange, and more. The family signed up for the ParentChild+ program, a school-readiness mentoring program for children heading to preschool or kindergarten.

"They are like my family at CHP," said Kashmira.

Now, Kashmira and Krunal have something to offer in return. When the Family Services team encounters a family or individual who has been displaced from housing, they call the nearby Travelodge to arrange a short-term motel stay. "While the motel provides a safe place to stay, a telephone and temporary address, CHP works to help the client with next steps: a housing search, healthy food, gas cards and parent support."

Krunal is impressed with the Family Services team's efficient help for displaced people facing real emergencies. "Other agencies may say, 'let me get back to you in a couple of days,' but not CHP. They take care of things right now," says Krunal.

"It is good for keeping busy," Kashmira says of her CHP connection. "But mostly it touches my heart to be helpful to people."

"Kashmira and Krunal are such lovely and generous people," said Mary Feuer, assistant director of WIC and Family Services at CHP. "They provide motel rooms for us at a discount, and once, when they were very busy, Krunal got on the phone and found help from another motel. We are grateful for this partnership!"



Kashmira and her daughters, Yashvi, 8, and Vishwa, 6, at the Great Barrington motel her family operates.

ADMINISTRATION

Amelia (Lia) Spiliotes
Chief Executive Officer

Thomas Walbridge
Chief Financial Officer

Karen Johnson
Chief Human Resources Officer

Kenneth Faber, MD
Chief Medical Officer

Michelle Derr
Senior VP, Family Services

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Our Mission...

CHP's mission is to improve the health of people throughout the Berkshires by delivering exceptional, compassionate health care.

Donor Spotlight: Ward's Nursery

Blossoming Generosity for CHP

There's a special family behind Ward's Nursery – the Ward family, of course – and they are among CHP's treasured financial supporters in the community.



Greg, Eva and Sam Ward

Greg, Eva and Sam Ward are regulars on the CHP donor rolls because they believe in CHP's promise of accessible health care for everyone – for their own employees and for many of their customers.

They meet regularly to discuss community needs and ways the Ward family can provide support. They are especially appreciative of CHP's behavioral health services, dental care, nutrition and Family Services programs, particularly CHP's commitment to preventive care.

Ward's Nursery took root in 1957 when Donald J. Ward Jr. and his partner Matt Tomich took over a couple of greenhouses and a potting shed on South Main Street. A few decades later, Don Jr.'s three sons – Mike, Greg and Don III – joined the business. Now, Greg's daughter Eva and Mike's son Sam have stepped in, making Ward's a third-generation business serving the tri-state region."

"We believe everyone should have access to the health care they need, and it should be offered in an environment where they feel safe and supported," say Ward family members in a shared message. "CHP does this for our community."

CHP Board of Trustees Welcomes New Members

CHP's board is growing bigger and better with the addition of two new members: Arlene D. Schiff and Katherine Westgate.



Arlene D. Schiff served for 12 years as executive director of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. She is now national director of LIFE & LEGACY®, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Arlene holds a master's degree from Harvard University and earned her undergraduate degree from UMass-Amherst. She lives in Lenox.



Katherine Westgate is global head of mobile commerce for Google Play Partnerships. She has held roles at Google, Microsoft and other technology firms. Katherine is a graduate of Yale University. She lives in Stockbridge and New York City.

Sharing Resiliency

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employees who want to work with us. We have launched the #CHPSmile project, to expand dental care access in the Berkshires. We are building a “food depot” in Great Barrington to help us better manage our food security programs.

Snapping back from a knock-down is no simple matter. There can be stumbles and setbacks, mistakes and missteps—one-step forward, two steps back. At CHP, we are now several healthy steps forward, thanks to our community of partners and friends.

Your own resilience and confidence has helped us take these steps forward. We thank you for your partnership in our community’s health and well-being.

Sincerely,



Lia Spiliotes

Gifts & Grants

Recent Grants to CHP include:

CHP is grateful for the following grants supporting our programs and services:

- \$17,326 Berkshire Taconic Emergency Pandemic Relief Funds
- \$75,000 Vitamin Angels, for WIC Supplemental Food Program
- \$50,600, Mass DPH/Mass League of Community Health Centers, for Workforce Support Recruitment and Retention

In Support of #CHPSmile:

- \$60,000 Gilson Family Foundation
- \$25,000 William and Margery S. Barrett Family Foundation
- \$3,000 Agnes Lindsay Trust, in Support of #CHP Smile



Scan to Support Our Mission Today

By The Numbers:



22,302 CHP medical visits 1/1/22 - 3/31/22
7,725 of these were telehealth visits



5.5% the increase in CHP’s pediatric dental patients since January 1, 2022

And thanks to our Vitamin Angels grant...



132 families, including 172 children under age 5, received local food and produce in March



16 New employees welcomed by CHP first quarter 2022



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Employee In Focus

March 2022
Employee of the Month



“At CHP, I am surrounded by staff who are compelled to serve their community. It is humbling to work amongst such dedicated and caring colleagues who approach our patients as human beings who deserve the best we have to offer. I see my role as one of supporting and caring for the staff so they can do their best work and have the impact they desire. My teams inspire me to keep learning, listening, and challenging others to do the same.”

Christa Gariepy, Sr. Director of Clinical Operations

Do you know someone who would be an asset to our team?

www.chpberkshires.org/careers

As a federally qualified health center, we care for patients and work with families whose needs are not always reimbursed by health insurance . Your support matters. Please donate today at chpberkshires.org.