



COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMS

healthy people • families • communities

Newsletter | Winter 2021

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

We can and must do more



Friends,

Late 2021 marks my sixth year as CEO at CHP, and I am uncomfortable. It's part of my job to be uncomfortable and uneasy with the ongoing gaps in our nation's health care system, and right here at home. With persistent barriers to care for our most vulnerable neighbors, and with the stark contrasts unveiled by Covid-19, each day I have to ask: what more can I do? What can CHP do?

We have done so much since 1974, but we can and must do more. Your support has been a constant thread in our large and small victories.

What do we mean by "support?" Financial support, of course! But many of you also support us in another important way: while CHP is the only choice for many of our neighbors due to insurance limitations, thousands of patients in our community have excellent insurance. You may be among them. If so, you have options -- but you choose CHP. Your choice helps

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Mission Moment

A New Family Connects

In mid-2020, a Boston area family relocated to the Southern Berkshires, where they found a rare affordable apartment. At the time, schools were closed to in-person learning, and the family -- with five children -- had no local connections or support network.

Then, through the local grapevine of volunteers working in food pantries and other settings, Anne Hutchinson of Great Barrington stepped up to help. Anne brought to the family a trove of community connections, transportation help and a link to Africa. She was once a Peace Corps volunteer in Ghana, home country of the children's mom, Cecelia.

Eventually, it was time to find dental care for the children: David, 17; Abigail, 15; Sara and Stella, 12-year-old twins, and 9-year-old Isaac. With the family's health insurance limitations, Great Barrington Family Dental was the best



L. to R. Sara, Stella, Dr. Young and Isaac

option, so Anne set up appointments. Awaiting them at the dental office was Dr. Taphaphene Young, a brand new CHP dentist who had just started her new job.

On appointment day, there was a quick connection: Dr. Young herself is a twin (her sister is also a dentist) so Stella and Sara quickly found common ground with her. As it happened, Dr. Young was able to care for four of the children; the oldest has an appointment pending.

"What kind, beautiful, astute children!" said Dr. Young, who has a personal and professional commitment to the importance of making dental care accessible to everyone.

Now, thanks to Anne's ongoing family support, a spirited family and a new family dentist, these new neighbors from Boston are building local connections to health and wellness.

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Donor Spotlight: Peter Spina & Michelle Schmidt

Foundations of Support



Peter Spina and his sister Michelle Schmidt may have left the Berkshires, but their roots, family and philanthropy are right here at home in the Berkshires. This year, for the first time, they generously directed funds from their family foundation to support CHP. Natives of Lenox, Peter now lives in Colorado, and Michelle lives in the Boston area.

Recently the Gilson Family Foundation, led by Peter and Michelle, contributed \$55,000 for construction of a CHP food distribution “depot” on the Great Barrington Community Health Center campus. The stand-alone building will bring much needed storage

and additional refrigeration space to CHP Family Services’ food and nutrition programs, which have exploded during Covid-19.

Another \$15,000 for the project comes from Robin and Elizabeth “Buzz” McGraw of Sheffield, via the Donald C. McGraw Foundation. It’s one of two McGraw family foundations that have supported CHP over the years.

The Spinas and McGraws are excellent examples of how family foundations make a difference at CHP. In this case, it’s all about food security: CHP’s Family Services building is simply out of space to handle incoming and outgoing food, for which CHP has become a South County hub.

“Care, cure and education--this is our very broad mission, and CHP covers all of those bases,” said Peter. “CHP’s food security efforts are making an impact on people who need healthy, nutritious food.”

Who is the Gilson, of the Gilson Family Foundation? Uncle Leo Gilson, now deceased, was the brother of Mary Gilson Spina of Lenox, Peter and Michelle’s mom. Uncle Leo and his wife Lucy lived on the North Shore of Boston, and they managed their foundation until Uncle Leo’s death six years ago. Aunt Lucy survived her husband, but several years ago the Gilsions entrusted Peter, now 43, and Michelle, 45, with the foundation.

Robin McGraw, senior director of Black Rock Foundation, said, “poverty, homelessness, homeless vets, substance abuse and food vulnerability are all issues that were exasperated exponentially by COVID 19. Supporting CHP with food distribution directly helps those in South County.”

“Peter and Michelle are the ideal example of Berkshire natives who are keeping connected from afar, and we welcome them as first-time donors,” said CHP CEO Lia Spiliotes. “Robin and Buzz McGraw are loyal, longtime supporters of CHP, and between these two generous families, we can better organize and manage our food security operations.”

Our Mission...

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

Power

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us to ensure care for those with fewer choices.

We hope you opt in to CHP for our exceptional, compassionate clinical staff and care. But we also hope you choose CHP because you want to partner with the community health center mission of providing healthcare to everyone.

When you arrive at one of our offices for your appointment, the playing field is instantly leveled. Regardless of who you are or where you come from, our staff and clinicians are equally dedicated to each of our patients. If you are not a CHP patient, we invite you to become one!

Our Annual Appeal will soon arrive in your mailbox, and in it, you will learn more about an important 2022 CHP initiative to further improve health and wellness for our community.

We thank you for your alliance with CHP. And if you are not a patient of CHP and would like to be, we can help you make the switch.

Sincerely,



Lia Spiliotes

Gifts & Grants

Recent Grants to CHP include:

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

- **Jewish Women's Foundation \$1,600**
- **Mass League of Community Health Centers \$285,000**
- **Western MA Food Bank \$4,062**
- **Health Resources and Services Administration \$844,113**
- **Gilson Family Foundation \$55,000**
- **Donald C. McGraw Foundation \$15,000**
- **Price Chopper Golub Foundation \$5,500**
- **Karebear Foundation \$4,000**
- **Barrett Fund (via BTCF) \$25,000* for creating access to dental care in Adams, MA.**

**This project has been supported by a grant from the William J. & Margery S. Barrett Fund for Adams, Cheshire & Savoy of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation*



Scan to Support Our Mission Today

By The Numbers:

Snapshot of how we serve community



\$95,000 spent this year by CHP to buy food from local farmers, to help feed for local families



4,420 individuals and families assisted by CHP Patient Navigators in getting and keeping their ACA health insurance, since July 2020



811 families served by the Vitamin Angels nutrition program since March 2021



\$200 is the price of a tank of gas for our Mobile Health Unit



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Employee In Focus



“When I moved to the Berkshires five years ago I had no idea this new job I had taken would make such an impact on my life - and through this work I’ve seen CHP have a dramatic, positive impact in our communities. It is easy to be motivated to come to work every day! I am humbled by the recognition, grateful for the opportunities given to me, and I am honored to help CHP achieve our mission. “

Carrie Barth, Director of Grants & Development
November 2021 - CHP Employee of the Month

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.