



Your COMMUNITY HEALTH CONNECTION

A Newsletter of Community Health Connect

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Double Donation Dental Day

During a time when over 300,000 Utahns are without health or dental insurance fourteen of Utah's low income and uninsured residents received free dental work during Community Health Connect's *Double Donation Dental Day* on November 21st 2008. The Event was organized by Community Health Connect in collaboration with Genesis Dental. It was an orchestrated team effort between the staff of both organizations and because of the collaborative effort, many patients were able to receive needed care in one morning of service.

Genesis Dental employees from various offices around Salt Lake, Provo, and Tooele united at the Taylorsville site to donate their time. Front desk staff, dental assistants, hygienists, and dentists all came together to make the event run smoothly and provide quality dental care. Even the Genesis Dental owners were on site to help coordinate, answer questions, and supply pizza and snacks to the



Dr. Steven Pope and his assistant provide local anesthesia to a dental patient

patients to the Salt Lake Valley site, one from the Seville Retirement Center and the other from Brigham Young University. Donations of food were gathered from several local grocery stores, and students from Utah Valley University's Communications Department provided public relations support for the event. It truly was a community event.

The majority of those who received dental work had been waiting years to go to the dentist but couldn't afford to do so because of a lack of dental insurance. "My wife and I haven't been to the dentist in years," said Daniel, one of the participants in the event. "It's just too costly without insurance." A fact that was even more shocking when we learned that Daniel works for a large multi-national corporation supplying car interiors to manufacturers in Michigan, Argentina, Brazil, and Italy. Even as an international corporation Daniel's employer can't cover dental costs for him, his wife, or his 3 children. Both Daniel and



Dr. Garry Brown and his assistant work on a CHC patient at the dental event

employees. In addition the owners donated the equivalent of what they would have paid the staff for that day to the Hirsche Smiles Foundation.

Community Health Connect employee Carla Aragon worked hard to get the patients ready for the dental day. All patients attended an oral health education class, and had their teeth cleaned by hygiene students at the local hygiene schools. In addition each patient had a treatment plan and x-rays before they came to the office. This enabled the dentists to begin work immediately instead of spending precious time in the evaluation process.

CHC and Genesis were not the only generous contributors to the event. Two vans were donated to transport



UVU Public Relations students pose with Community Health Connect patients



Thank You Genesis Dental!!

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Maritza just completed her one year checkup with Dr. Jackson. Today she is walking and even running a bit here and there—a feat she never would have dreamed possible a few years ago.

Back on Her Feet

As a single mother with two sons at home, Maritza was struggling. The prosthetic hip she had now was causing more pain and problems than it was helping and she was rapidly cutting her weekly work hours at a part-time cleaning job because she couldn't endure the pain. Maritza didn't know what to do as it was becoming more and more difficult to provide for her family. By the time she found Community Health Connect she had stopped working completely and relying on her church and network of friends to get by. Maritza was connected with Dr Richard Jackson for an evaluation. He told her that surgery was the only option for her hip, which was disheartening to Maritza who still vividly remembered her previous surgery. Forty-five year old Maritza was not ready for a second hip replacement. She still had memories of her earlier painful surgery running through her mind. She remembered the year it took her to recuperate, and the minimal pain it relieved. She could not afford to go a whole year without working, let alone the other needs that would go unmet if she were

in bed for that long. Dr Jackson explained that the process would be very different than the one she had experienced almost 18 years prior, and that she would be back



on her feet in a few weeks, with almost normal movement in six months. He went out of his way to reassure her of the developments that had been made since her last surgery and he kindly gave her the name of one of his patients, a woman who had undergone the same procedure almost a year before, who could share details about recuperation time, physical therapy, and the emotional strain of such a procedure. Maritza underwent surgery in October of 2007, and recently completed her one-year checkup with Dr Jackson. Today she is

walking, even running a bit here and there—a feat she never would have dreamed possible a few years ago. She has no physical difficulties working her full-time stocking job at Wal-Mart, and is now more easily able to provide for her two sons at home. The surgery went well, and the recovery was much shorter and less painful than she had imagined—just as Dr Jackson had promised. Maritza is overjoyed with the state of her health and is very appreciative to all of those involved in her care. She gratefully thanks Dr Jackson for donating his surgical services, the physical therapists at Central Utah Clinic for the many donated sessions, Intermountain Healthcare for their donated facility and care, and her great friends and church members who helped babysit kids, bring dinners, and help her maneuver about the house while she was recuperating. Maritza has a great spirit and positive attitude. She has an infectious smile and is a joy to work with. We were happy for the help we could coordinate for her, and for the providers who donated their valuable services.

Double Donation Dental Day (continued)

his wife received care that day. The combined total of their services was over two thousand dollars. They expressed gratitude to the parties involved in making dental care a reality for them both.

Dentists and dental assistants filled cavities, extracted teeth, and even performed root canals on those participating in the donation dental day. The dentists who volunteered their time and efforts did their community a great service by providing their valuable skills to those in need. The total value of dental services donated at the event was \$10,370.

The need for this type of charity work will likely continue to grow as premiums increase, more people lose their health insurance, and as fewer people can afford the

care they need. Community Health Connect is grateful for those dentists and healthcare professionals who willingly give back

to the community. Thank you to everyone from Genesis Dental for your generous attitudes and contributions. We commend you!



Genesis Dental staff who volunteered at the event

Provider Spotlight: Duane Nelson, MD

This month we spotlight Dr. Duane J. Nelson, MD and send some recognition his way on behalf of many grateful patients and from all of us here at Community Health Connect. Duane Nelson graduated from Brigham Young University in 1984, and then received his M.D. from the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland in 1988. Young Dr. Nelson then completed his internship and ophthalmology residency at Naval Hospital in San Diego. He served as a general medical officer aboard the *USS Camden* (a large combat support vessel) during Operation *Desert Storm* and as a Staff Oph-

thalmologist at the Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida for five years before returning to Utah Valley. Over the past several years Dr. Nelson has generously provided his special services to many patients referred through Community Health Connect. It's difficult to single out any particular patient in his care, but one recent event comes easily to mind. Juan suffered for years from the terrible effects a severe cataract can have on one's vision. In recent months it had grown in size and density, effectively blocking Juan's ability to see. Dr. Nelson performed a procedure on Juan; and only hours afterwards, Juan called our of-

fice. With his voice shaky and filled with emotion, Juan shared with us how well he could see again, only hours after his operation. Dr. Nelson has been in practice at Utah Valley Eye Center since 1999, and his office staff has shared with us that he is a most appreciated and valuable asset to their team. The Nelsons and their children make their home in Orem where they are active in the community, and he holds a position of responsibility in his church. We honor Dr. Nelson and with Juan share our gratitude for his unselfish talents and skills.



Duane Nelson, MD

THANK YOU Dr. Nelson!

Volunteer of the Quarter: Tyler Carlson

Tyler, from Mesa Arizona, is a pre-dental student at BYU studying Nutritional Science. Tyler has volunteered more hours in his seven months at CHC than many volunteers spend in years of service. He organized a very exciting oral health booth at the Health and Safety fair in October. He has volunteered many hours in our

office as well interpreted at appointments for clients. He was a central volunteer in the Utah County Dental Campaign program in Title I schools throughout the county this fall and he is currently a key player in organizing volunteers for the upcoming 2009 Give Kids a Smile Event in February. The thing that Tyler likes most

about volunteering with CHC is seeing people really need it receive the care they need to eliminate their pain and discomfort. Because of his experience with CHC he said, "I am going to be much more likely to volunteer my services [once a Dentist] and help those in need." Thank you Tyler!



Tyler Carlson

THANK YOU Tyler!

About Community Health Connect

Mission

Our mission is to improve access to medical and dental care for low-income, uninsured, men, women, and children in Utah County. We accomplish this goal through the coordination of a Volunteer Provider Network, providing health education, and maximizing existing community resources

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James Barry, D.D.S.

THANK YOU Dr. Barry!

Provider Spotlight: James Barry, DDS

Dr James Barry, an Orem native, has been in the private dental practice since 1986. After graduating from Orem High School he completed his undergraduate studies at Brigham Young University. Four years later he graduated from the Georgetown University School of Dentistry Magna Cum Laude and was a member of the National Dental Honor Society. Following graduation Dr. Barry completed his general dentistry residency at the VA Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah. Through continued education Dr. Barry has expanded his general dentistry capabilities to include simple orthodontic procedures and basic oral surgeries. His Orem practice includes a staff of fifteen employees who love their jobs. The Staff works

together to fulfill the office mission of serving with “excellence, compassion, integrity, [and] high quality; thus developing relationships of trust, understanding and friendship” with each patient. This willing and positive attitude is obvious to patients, who speak highly of the entire office staff. Dr. Barry has had a passion for many things, including the pole vault which he performed in high school and college. He toyed with the idea of trying out for the Olympics when he first started his practice but decided against it. Instead he went on to have an exceptional dental practice with his son, David, in the Cherry Tree Professional Plaza. While raising a large family and keeping his practice running, Dr. Barry has also contributed much to the community

with a special emphasis on Scouting.

Dr. Barry is a recent addition to the Community Health Connect network of volunteer provider professionals, and thanks go out to him and his staff for contributing greatly to our quest in helping the uninsured of Utah County. In the few months he has been involved with our program he has contributed thousands of dollars of needed dentistry for a number of patients who have been waiting for many months. These patients are very appreciative of the work that Dr Barry has done and they commend him for his commitment to volunteerism in the community.

Thank you Dr. Barry!