



## We Continue Working for Healthy Communities

As you read this edition of CommuniCare Connection, you will notice the recurring themes of collaboration and expansion of services to meet the needs of the communities we serve. These stories serve to demonstrate that in spite of the current climate of severe funding cuts and desperate budget proposals that threaten access to care for low income, uninsured and underinsured families, CommuniCare is continuing to work hard to find innovative ways to meet the demand for affordable health care for an ever-growing number of families in need.

We are proud of the high quality of care offered in our clinics, and the stories in this newsletter are a testament to the many local supporters and partners who work with us to continually improve and expand services that are vital to the health of our entire community. We thank our many supporters, our staff, and our volunteers who make serving our mission of “providing high quality care to those in need” a reality every day.

- Robin Affrime, CEO, and  
Sherry Cauchois, CFO



CommuniCare was presented with the prestigious 2008 Migrant Health Center Outstanding Service Award by the National Association of Community Health Centers.

## Collaborations – Supporting & Strengthening Our Services

### • Specialty Care Access Initiative

Supported by a two-year grant from **Kaiser Permanente**, this initiative is improving access to care for Yolo County’s uninsured and Yolo County Healthcare for Indigents (YCHIP) patients in the specialty care areas of neurology, endocrinology, rheumatology, gastroenterology, and orthopedic surgery. CommuniCare is the lead agency for this collaborative effort that includes as stakeholders the Yolo County Health Department, as well as all of the major health care systems and community clinics in the county. CommuniCare’s Specialty Care Access Initiative Project Manager Amy Ham and Case Manager Patricia Perez are working with the partnering stakeholders in implementing a process that equitably distributes patient referrals to specialists.

### • RuralPRIME

CommuniCare is entering the second year of the RuralPRIME collaboration with the **UC Davis School of Medicine**. The purpose of the program is to positively impact the medical students who choose to start their careers by practicing in the rural areas of California where Family Practice physicians are needed. CommuniCare’s physicians provide in-clinic and classroom instruction as well as role modeling the skills that the medical students in the program will need to provide compassionate, patient-centered care to California’s rural populations.

### • Expanded Access to Dental Care

CommuniCare is the lead agency for a collaborative project providing dental services for Yolo County’s young children and pregnant women who are most at-risk for the serious consequences of dental disease. CommuniCare and **Winters Healthcare Foundation** have expanded

access to services in their dental clinics to accommodate clients referred for care. The program is funded by a grant from **First 5 Yolo**.

### • HIV Clinic

CommuniCare and **CARES** (Center for AIDS Research, Education and Services) have entered into a partnership that is providing monthly HIV specialty care at Peterson Clinic in Woodland.. The partnership has also brought HIV/AIDS training for the provider staff at Peterson Clinic from the region’s top expert in HIV/AIDS, Dr. Paolo Cancio-Troia, an infectious disease specialist with over 10 years experience in the field. Dr. Troia is the Medical Director for CARES (located in Sacramento) and leads the monthly HIV Clinic at Peterson supported by CommuniCare staff. The monthly HIV clinics at Peterson Clinic are an important service to western Yolo County’s HIV/AIDS patient population, most of whom find it too difficult to travel to Sacramento and would otherwise not get the primary and specialty care services they need.



Dr. Paolo Cancio-Troia, Medical Director of CARES and the region’s top expert in HIV/AIDS care, leads CommuniCare’s monthly HIV clinic.

# What's New At CommuniCare

CommuniCare has opened the doors of a new part-time primary care clinic, located on the campus of **Woodland Community College**. The collaboration with Woodland Community College offers primary health care services to students enrolled at the college. The services are provided free of charge two mornings per week while classes are in session by CommuniCare's Margolo Parson, a Family Nurse Practitioner. Since beginning services in February,



*CommuniCare's Margolo Parson, FNP (left) and Woodland Community College President, Dr. Angela Fairchild (right).*

Margolo's services have mainly provided care for minor, acute illnesses.

For the coming school term, CommuniCare plans to add reproductive health services and behavioral health services to the current services offered at the Woodland Community College site. The college has also announced plans for a new on-campus facility to house the clinic, undertaking a remodeling project due to be completed in 2010.

## Primary Care

A new portable jaundice meter is now in use at Davis Community Clinic, making it more convenient for CommuniCare's primary care providers and the parents of newborns to get results of critical jaundice tests. A common condition in newborns, jaundice refers to the yellow color of the skin and whites of the eyes caused by excess bilirubin in the blood produced by the normal breakdown of red blood cells. Jaundice presents in up to 50% of all newborns, with a significantly higher incidence among premature infants. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all infants be examined for jaundice within a few days of birth. The portable jaundice meter accurately and painlessly screens for bilirubin levels by use of light - a gentle alternative to traditional blood draws, and provides results instantly in the clinic without parents having to travel to a hospital or await lab processing.

The jaundice meter was purchased through funding support from **River City Bank Foundation**.



*Dr. Betsy Meux uses CommuniCare's portable jaundice meter to measure the bilirubin level of an infant patient.*

## Behavioral Health

CommuniCare's primary care clinics are seeing an increasing number of patients with mental health issues that complicate their ability to maintain their physical health, such as coping with chronic pain. We have also seen increasing need for our medical providers to prescribe and monitor medications for mental health conditions, and a corresponding increase in the number of our adult patients in need of referrals for mental health services. To meet this growing need, CommuniCare has begun providing Integrated Behavioral Health services at each of our primary care clinics for our adult patients experiencing a range of mild to moderate mental health issues that complicate and compromise their physical health.

Integrated Behavioral Health services are initiated by a referral made during a regular patient visit. The

patient's primary care provider makes the referral to CommuniCare's Behavioral Health Specialist, who may then follow-up with a short-term series of behavioral health visits, also provided in our primary care clinics. Cathy Sutton, LCSW, CommuniCare's Behavioral Health Specialist, is supported by a team of behavioral health interns who speak English, Russian and Spanish.

CommuniCare's Integrated Behavioral Health Program was initiated with grant funding support from the Integrated Behavioral Health Project, a strategic initiative of the **Tides Foundation**.



*Barry Chang, D.D.S. is the first Dental Director on staff at CommuniCare.*

CommuniCare welcomes Barry Chang, D.D.S. as our first Dental Director on staff at CommuniCare. The Dental Director position had previously been a volunteer position since the program started in 1990. Dr. Chang is a native of Taiwan and completed his undergraduate degree at the University of California, Irvine. He graduated from Columbia University College of Dental Medicine in New York in 1992. Dr. Chang brings over 16 years of dental experience to CommuniCare, most recently providing dental services and dental program management at two community clinics in Orange County, California.

“Dentistry allows me to connect to people, to build relationships, understand patients’ wants and needs and

create long-term value for better oral health, as well as deliver high quality care for a patient population that is in need. I want CommuniCare’s Dental Program to continue to be available, accessible, affordable, appropriate, culturally sensitive, comprehensive and compassionate.”

## Dental Program

Yolo County children ages 0 to 5 are getting free dental screenings and fluoride varnish on their teeth at special Saturday Smile Saver clinics provided by CommuniCare’s Smile Savers Program. The services are supported by grant funding to increase access to oral health care for the county’s children. Tooth decay is the single most prevalent childhood disease, with approximately one third of all preschool children in California having untreated tooth decay that can lead to more serious health problems.

With access to dental care a critical concern for the low-income children in Yolo County, **First 5 Yolo** has partnered with CommuniCare to help young children receive the oral health care they need. The services are provided by bilingual staff on a rotating basis throughout the year at Peterson Clinic, Salud Clinic, Davis Community Clinic and Esparto Dental Clinic.



*CommuniCare Dental Hygienist Mary Camarena examines the teeth of a young patient during a special Saturday Smile Saver clinic held at Davis Community Clinic.*

## The Lorraine Lunden Scholarship Program

CommuniCare has created the Lorraine Lunden Scholarship Program to assist CommuniCare staff members in furthering their professional development through pursuit of education in a health-related discipline. The program honors Lorraine Lunden, CommuniCare's longest-tenured employee. Lorraine is a Physician Assistant providing services at Davis Community Clinic and John H. Jones Community Clinics, and has been serving CommuniCare's clients since 1978, when she began work at the Davis Free Clinic.

Up to two scholarships will be awarded annually, and can be used to offset expenses for tuition and books for applicants seeking educational degrees or certificates in approved health care areas.

The scholarship fund is supported entirely by donations made by CommuniCare staff and members of the community. To make a donation in support of the Lorraine Lunden Scholarship Fund, please indicate “For Scholarship Fund” on the enclosed envelope or on your check, or you may e-mail [johnb@communicarehc.org](mailto:johnb@communicarehc.org) for information.



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# CommuniCare

HEALTH CENTERS

**Administration**

Post Office Box 1260  
Davis, CA 95617  
Phone (530) 753-3498  
Fax (530) 758-2109

**Davis Community Clinic**

2051 John Jones Road  
Davis, CA 95616  
(530) 758-2060 Medical  
(530) 757-4667 Dental

**Esparto Dental Clinic**

16827 Fremont Avenue  
Esparto, CA 95627  
(530) 787-4972

**Peterson Clinic**

8 North Cottonwood Street  
Woodland, CA 95695  
(530) 666-8960 Medical  
(530) 666-8954 Dental

**Salud Clinic**

500B Jefferson Blvd., #180  
West Sacramento, CA 95605  
(916) 375-6400 Medical  
(916) 375-6430 Dental

**John H. Jones Community Clinics**

500B Jefferson Blvd., #195  
West Sacramento, CA 95605  
(916) 371-1966

804 Court Street  
Woodland CA 95695  
(530) 668-2400

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## Thank You for Supporting CommuniCare's Programs and Services

**West Sacramento Foundation**

For funding to purchase an Automatic Energy Defibrillation device for Salud Clinic in West Sacramento.

**Episcopal Church of St. Martin**

For funding to purchase infant car seats and essential infant supplies for our Stork's Nest programs, benefiting our Perinatal Program families.

**River City Bank Foundation**

for funding to support purchase of a portable jaundice meter, ophthalmology equipment and an Automatic Energy Defibrillation device for Davis Community Clinic.

**City of West Sacramento**

For funding support to purchase infant car seats for our Perinatal Program families in West Sacramento.

**Davis Project Linus Volunteers**

For creating and donating dozens of handmade baby blankets and quilts for babies born to families in our Perinatal Program.

**Woodland United Way**

for funding to support provision of dental services at Peterson Clinic in Woodland, and dental health education and dental sealants for students in Woodland elementary schools and preschools.

**Soroptimists International of Davis**

For funding to purchase infant car seats for our Perinatal Program families.

**Anderson Family Foundation**

For funding support of our Pediatric Immunization Program.

**Kaiser Permanente Foundation**

For funding support of our Breast Cancer Screening and Prevention Program.

**The Family and Friends of Suzanne Hansen**

For the many gifts made in memory of Suzanne Hansen to support CommuniCare's programs and services.

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