



Contact: Samantha Pearl, Executive Director
Community HealthCare Connections
(269)969-6461
spearl@calhouncountymi.gov

Community Benefits From Foundation Investment

(December 9, 2009) One is not greater than two in traditional math equations, but in the case of Community HealthCare Connections, one is the greatest number of all.

With a recently announced grant of \$225,000 from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Community HealthCare Connections can continue the work of merging the Calhoun Health Plan and the Nursing Clinic of Battle Creek into one umbrella organization in one location.

“We have done extensive evaluation and work already around the mission and goals of the organizations,” said Executive Director Samantha Pearl, “now we have the means to fully bring the organizations together by bringing them under one roof.”

According to Reggie LaGrand, director of Battle Creek programming at the Kellogg Foundation, the activities of the Calhoun Health Plan and the Nursing Clinic of Battle Creek enhance the efforts of the Kellogg Foundation “to propel children to success – particularly those among us who are most vulnerable. Access to quality, affordable health care is essential to the proper growth and development of children, and we're pleased to support this consolidation of resources.”

The Nursing Clinic is currently located at 34 Green Street in Battle Creek. The Nursing Clinic provides free, acute medical treatment to the poor and uninsured and helps patients to find a permanent medical home. The Calhoun Health Plan manages the State’s Medicaid Adult Benefit Waiver Plan A and the community-based Plan B, the Prescription Drug Access Program, Community Dental Access Initiative(The Dentists’ Partnership), Referral & Advocacy Services, and the Health Assistance Fund.

“Both the Nursing Clinic and Calhoun Health Plan are serving many of the same clients,” said Pearl. “Our missions were very similar and we knew we could do more for the community by joining forces.”

According to Pearl, a feasibility study was conducted to determine the best location for the clinic based on staffing, space, and access considerations. The study and Board of Directors agreed that a move to the Third Floor of the Toeller Building, 190 E. Michigan Avenue, made the most sense.

Facility and technology enhancements are on the horizon. Work has already begun on the new Nursing Clinic, with an anticipated opening date of March 2, 2010. In the meantime, the current location is open and ready to serve the poor and uninsured in Battle Creek.

“We understand the struggles in our community,” said Pearl. “We want to help ensure that people in need of medical care have access to it. With this grant, we’ll be able to provide streamlined care for patients, and create opportunities to expand care and coverage to more uninsured residents.”

Community HealthCare Connections is an organization devoted to connecting uninsured and underinsured vulnerable individuals to urgent medical care and basic health, navigation, referral and advocacy services. For more information about Community HealthCare Connections, go to www.helpfortheuninsured.net or call 969-6494.

Established in 1930, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation supports children, families and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society. Grants are concentrated in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and southern Africa. For further information, please visit the Foundation’s website at www.wkkf.org.

