



Spring, 2005
Issue 1

Dear Magis Supporters,

It was one year ago that eight students collaborated to apply for the AAMC grant. Since then the clinic opened in September and serves about ten to fifteen patients each Saturday. A growing number of students are involved as volunteers, fundraisers and members of various committees dedicated to improving the quality of care we provide. In addition to acute care needs, we discovered the need for health screening and education among our patients and have since started projects to provide this. Most recently we held a diabetic retinopathy screening clinic with the help of Creighton Ophthalmologist Dr. Priluck. In the next few months we hope to launch a hypertension program. Thanks to a grant from the local Rotary Club, a pediatric vaccination clinic is planned for this summer.

None of this could be possible without the incredible support of the Creighton community. The countless donations of medications as well as physicians taking their Saturdays to staff our clinic is essential to our success. Of course, there is still much work to be done to make the Magis Clinic reach its potential, and we will continue to look to the Creighton community for its support.

Sincerely,

Zulma Barrios, Ann Allie,
Rick Patch

What We Do

By Anouki Karu

Not all knowledge is garnered from textbooks alone. Ask any of the medical students who have volunteered at the Magis Clinic and they will tell you their experience in an acute care setting, helping Omaha's indigent is where you learn what books cannot teach – application of your medical knowledge, compassion for your fellow man, teaching your peers by example and being a part of real-life situations where you can make a difference.

The Magis Clinic, located at the Siena Francis House in north Omaha is a free, completely student-run medical clinic serving Omaha's underserved and/or uninsured population, open every Saturday, year-round, from 2-6 pm. The Magis

Medical Free Clinic has two main goals: first and foremost, to help the community, and second, to give medical students an opportunity to gain hands-on clinical experience. To this end, every Saturday, the clinic is staffed by a

Creighton physician, two upperclassmen (third or fourth year medical students), two first and/or second year medical students, and an office manager. The underclassmen are responsible for obtaining the patient's vital signs and chief complaint, which they then report to the upperclassmen. The upperclassmen then visit the patient with the underclassmen, conduct a focused history and physical exam, and generate a differential diagnosis, which is then reviewed with the Creighton physician so that

a diagnosis and treatment plan can be established. The clinical manager coordinates the volunteers, obtains and maintains charts, sample medicines and medical records, and provides referral services to the patient to ensure continuity of care. Within this hierarchy of physicians teaching medical students who explain the diagnoses to patients, there is a plethora of opportunities for learning and mastering the more intricate aspects of the physical exam.

Each week, the clinic provides free health-care services to an estimated 10-20 people mainly of the homeless population including, basic acute primary care



(Seated from left to right, are Zulma Barrios, Mary Rogers, and Rick Patch. Standing left to right, are Dr. James Phalen, Dave Rust, Katie Banker, Ajay Balaram and Angie Adams. Not pictured is Ann Allie.)

consultations and follow-up, physical exams, laboratory services including basic blood tests, pharmaceuticals and referral services. All supplies at the clinic are from either direct donation or are purchased from the clinic treasury, which has received a four-year, thirty-thousand dollar grant from the Association of American Medical Colleges as well as a three thousand dollar gift from the Creighton University School of Medicine Class of 2004 and other private donations.

Clinic manager and third year medical student Katie Banker says, "We are happy to be able to fill a void in the community to provide acute care for people with little or no insurance on the weekends. It is a great opportunity to serve members of the Omaha community as well as a positive learning experience for the students involved." As a student who has volunteered there myself, I can truthfully say it was an amazing experience to be able to help people who really needed it. The people I had the privilege of serving ranged from being uninsured to homeless, with problems varying from foot fungus to assault to heart attacks.

The compassion and care with which these patients were treated made me increasingly aware of the need for more clinics and volunteers like these in the United States. Every city should be as lucky as Omaha to have a Magis Clinic on their corner.

Pfizer Grant Awarded to Creighton

By Matthew Butts

Students from Creighton University's School of Medicine received a grant to establish the Magis Medical Clinic at the Siena Francis House in June of 2004. The grant is part of the Association of American Medical Colleges Caring for Community Program in which the "ultimate goal of the Caring for Community Grant Program is to encourage students to identify untapped avenues of community service." The program is in conjunction with the Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative. Such a program is in line with Creighton's great tradition of community involvement—an institution rewarded the prestigious Outstanding Community Service Award for 2003 from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).

The Magis Clinic idea was proposed by students in response to a recognized need of the homeless community in Omaha. Because most free clinics in Omaha only deliver care to the homeless on weekdays, students working with the Omaha Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (OACCH), realized the need for free outpatient medical services on Saturdays. The Caring for Community Program will give start-up funding for the Magis Clinic, and provide funding support that gradually transfers responsibility to the medi-

cal school. The Magis Clinic is eligible to receive 75% of funding during its second year of operation, 50% its third, and 25% its fourth year, with the additional funds coming from Creighton University. The Magis Clinic will use these funds to do "more" in bettering the community. "Magis" is Latin for more, and as the Clinic's mission statement expresses, the Creighton University School of Medicine strives to foster in students a lifelong commitment to service. Ultimately, the ideal the Magis Clinic promotes will help all of us do more for our community.

Magis Clinic Open House

By Clare Hoff

On September 11, 2004 a small group of Creighton medical students gathered at Siena/Francis House to take part in the opening of the Magis Clinic. Since then, Magis Clinic has been successfully running as the only free clinic in Omaha open on Saturdays.

However, the Magis Clinic could not have accomplished anything without the generous donations and support of the Creighton doctors, faculty, and students as well as the support from the Siena/Francis House, the Charles Drew Clinic and other local community groups.

In honor of all those who truly made the Magis Clinic's grand opening possible, an Open House was held in Octo-

ber 2004. Amidst a spread of appetizers tours of the clinic were given to show those who supported the health center what their hard earned donations and valuable time were doing for the underserved. The student administrators, who were responsible for setting up the clinic, were all present to answer questions. Channel six news, showed up along with The Omaha World Herald to cover the event.

Overall the open house was a great success. To everyone who made the Magis Clinic possible, we extend our deepest gratitude and thank you for your continued support.

Donations Give Warmth to Siena/Francis Residents

By Dave Rust

In January, Creighton medical students, physicians, and faculty combined efforts to help make the Magis Clinic Coat Drive a success. Over a three week period, donations of jackets and other winter apparel filled boxes placed in medical school classrooms, the hospital, and the Health Sciences Library. The effort came in response to an increased need for men's winter clothing at the Siena/Francis House this winter. Overall, more than 30 men's jackets were donated along with nearly 40 scarves and a handful of other items

including gloves, hats, and some women's and children's items as well. The items were delivered to the Siena/Francis House to be distributed to residents in need of warm clothes. Thank you to everyone who donated items and a special thanks to Jim Bothmer and the rest of the Health Sciences Library staff for their help collecting donation items.

Magis Clinic Honored by the University

By Ann Allie

The students of the Magis Clinic were among those honored at the Creighton University Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at the Lied Education Center for the Arts on January 17th. University President, Father John Schlegel, presented the Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award recognizing the Clinic mission that embodies Dr. King's belief that "everyone can be great, because everyone can serve." This is the first time a student group has received the Legacy Award. Zulma Barrios, Ann Allie, Rick Patch, Angie Adams, Ajay Balam, Dave Rust and Mary Rogers accepted the award.

Ophthalmology Event

By Rich Hughes

The Magis Clinic took another step forward to assist the homeless in

the Omaha area. On Saturday, March 12th, the clinic was pleased to welcome Dr. Ira Priluck, an ophthalmologist who works at Bergen/Mercy Hospital. With his visit at the Siena/Francis House, 11 patients were screened for diabetic retinopathy.

If they needed laser therapy, Dr. Priluck was willing to see them. Patients from other homeless shelters such as Open Door Mission, Hope Medical Outreach, and One World Clinic were also eligible to be seen by Dr. Priluck.

The Magis Clinic also used this event as an opportunity to educate patients about diabetes. Pertinent issues such as diet recommendations, regular blood sugar measurements, and long term complications of the disease were covered so that these patients can lead a healthier life.

Magis student volunteers played an important role in helping to make this event a success. Dr. Priluck believed this was a great opportunity for students to learn the skills necessary to perform a proper eye exam and to observe the changes that occur in a diabetic eye. Volunteers arrived 10:30a.m. for set up and began to see patients at 11:00 a.m. In

addition to checking the eye, students took vitals and administered a history and physical on each patient. They also examined other important aspects of a diabetic's history such as neuropathy.

The Magis Clinic



(From left to right, back row: Dr. Enarson, Dean of Creighton Medical School, Rick Patch, Mary Rogers, Ajay Balam, Dave Rust. Front row: Zulma Barrios, Angie Adams, Ann Allie.)

continues to grow and to bring more care to those who need it by providing these types of services.

Services for the Homeless in Omaha

By Heather Stewart

There are several organizations in the Omaha metro area dedicated to helping the homeless. These organizations offer food, housing, and services such as, substance abuse rehabilitation and crisis intervention.

- The **Francis House** provides 80 beds nightly for men 19 years of age and older. The Francis House also has a drug and alcohol program with a long-term rehabilitation services available.

- **Siena House** is available for women 19 years and older and their children (girls of any age and boys up to 7 years of age.) It can shelter up to 32 women and children and provides three meals daily. The Siena House is also one of the few safe houses for victims of domestic violence.

- The **Stephen Center** provides shelter for 22 men and 21 women and children. Their HERO program can accommodate 10 women with children and 10 men for domestic violence and chemical abuse recovery.

- **St. Vincent de Paul Family Shelter** is available for married couples, one and two parent families, and single women. It offers a 36-bed shelter and crisis intervention.

- The **Open Door Mission** is one of the larger programs in the Omaha metro area. It offers emergency temporary housing for homeless men, women, and families, providing them with food, shelter and clothing.

- **Lydia House** is an emergency shelter for homeless mothers and children and female victims of domestic violence. It houses a 12-month rehabilitation program for chemical dependence. It is located with the Open Door Mission.

- **The Salvation Army** operates several programs aimed at preventing homelessness. Its' 37th Street Residential Readiness Program offers community living for the homeless in a supportive and goal-oriented environment.

Thank you to our Donors

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Wish List

Antibiotic Medications
Wound Care Supplies
Anti-fungal Medications
OTC analgesics (tylenol, advil, motrin)
Antibiotic Cream (neosporin etc.)
Ophthalmological meds (Abx eye drops, visine etc.)
I-Stat Machine
Our Own Building!
I-Stat Machine

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Magis Clinic