

GVHC Today

VOL. 40 No. VI

June 2012

In this edition of GVHC TODAY, we keep you connected with what is happening throughout GVHC in support of our patients and communities we serve. This year Golden Valley Health Centers is celebrating our 40th Anniversary! GVHC was first established in 1972 when Merced County's Migrant Health Services project was implemented at Merced General Hospital.

40 years of Commitment & Success
Michael Sullivan received the National Association of Community Health Centers Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his 40 years of Commitment and Success. Well deserved!

GVHC in the 1970's
Journey back with us to when GVHC first began its mission in 1972. Over the next few months we will review our 40 years of history!



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Homeless Outreach
On June 8th, GVHC staff provided services at the Homeless Connect event in Merced and helped to provide screenings to more than 200 people.



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Outreach Efforts
GVHC staff participated in an event in Newman offering dental and blood pressure screenings along with teen pregnancy prevention education.



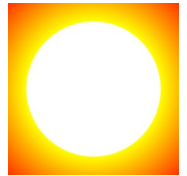
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ACA Forums
Did you know that we are holding forums for the public and for local businesses to help them understand what the Affordable Care Act will mean for everyone? Read here to learn more!



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Summer tips!
The summer weather can be as hot as 113 degrees. Read here to learn what you can do to stay safe in the summer heat.



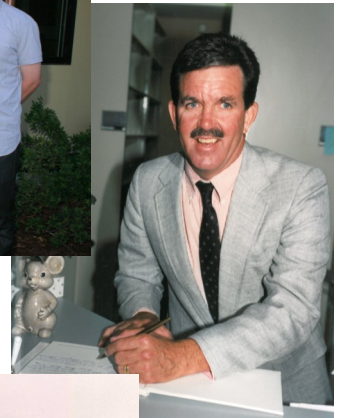
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Thank You Mr. Sullivan!

By Amanda Day and Dr. John Aleman

This year Golden Valley Health Centers will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary. We consider our "birthday" as September 1972, when Merced County's Migrant Health Services project opened its doors to the first patients at Merced General Hospital with Michael O. Sullivan as the project coordinator, offering health services to farm workers in Merced County. The clinic had a total staff of six with one part time doctor and saw 1,500 patients. Today we have more than 700 staff members, over 100 providers, 26 sites/clinics, and serve about 100,000 patients and Mike Sullivan has been here for all of it! We would like to thank him for all of his efforts here at Golden Valley Health Centers and wish him the best of luck!

Perhaps Dr. John Aleman said it best when reflecting on what an amazing person Mike Sullivan is: "I think all of you will agree that Mike is a very kind and compassionate person. He has always had a heart for those who live on the margins of society and has sought to provide them with first class care and in a way that preserves their dignity. Despite his many accomplishments Mike has remained modest and is always quick to praise others. He is always kind and approachable to staff members. I believe that Mike has made it one of his top priorities to get to know every Golden Valley staff member by name. The organization will miss your vision, your creativity, your pursuit of excellence, and your humanity. May God bless you on your next life adventure."



Above: Mike Sullivan and his family at the new Senior Health and Wellness Center (top Left). Mike in 1991 at the celebration of the Planada clinic's 10 year celebration (Middle Right). Mike and Flora Martinez at Merced Family Health Center's 10 year celebration in 1982 (bottom right).

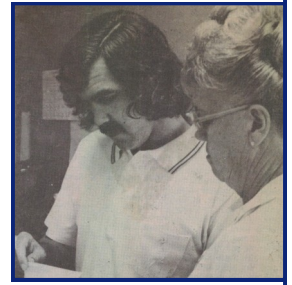


Golden Valley Health Centers History: The 1970's

Golden Valley Health Centers is celebrating it's 40th Anniversary this year. Journey back with us as we remember all the events that brought us here! -Amanda Day

1972

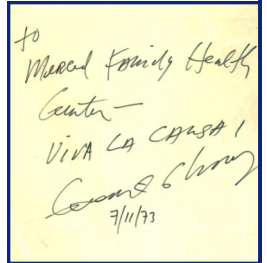
September—Michael O. Sullivan, 27, assumes his duties as coordinator of Merced County's Migrant Health Services project at Merced General Hospital. The program opened doors to their first patients at Merced General Hospital, offering health services to farm workers in Merced County. The clinic had a total staff of six with one part time doctor and saw 1,500 patients.



1973

July—After serving Merced County for nine months Merced Family Health Center became an independent community controlled health service corporation; non-profit status and a grant were received from the federal government by a community-based Board. All patients were charged \$2.00 per visit and up to \$4.00 per family, but services were not denied to anyone.

July—Caesar Chavez wrote "To Merced Family Health Center—Viva La Causa!" Cesar Chavez founded and led the United Farm Workers of America, the nation's first successful labor union for farm workers. Mike Sullivan met Cesar Chavez in Merced when the UFW President was leading a march to Sacramento on behalf of the grape boycott.



1974

December--Merced Family Health Center's held its Inauguration/Grand Opening. The center opened to the public on December 9th and would be open from 9:00 am-5:30 pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and 9:00 am-9:00 pm on Tuesday and Thursday. The Dental facility opened after New Year's Day. There was also a performance by the world famous "Teatro Campesino."

1975

December—Ernestine Woods, R.N. Project Director of WIC program at the Merced Family Health Center, announced that the WIC Nutrition Program was expanded by the federal government to serve up to 1,100 participants (in 1974 only 212 were enrolled). The WIC program was designed to help guide participants to improve their health through nutrition knowledge and use of supplemental food.

1976

February—A Groundbreaking ceremony was held for a 4,000 ft expansion of the Merced Family Health Center. The new building would contain a waiting space, examination rooms, a conference room, a pharmacy and a new laboratory area.

March-GVHC received Rural Health Initiative (RHI) funding to open satellite clinic in Los Banos at 925 E. Pacheco Boulevard in Los Banos named Family Health Center Nueva Esperanza.



1977

January—The Inauguration of the Merced Family Health Center's new center on N Street and Childs Avenue was held. The four building complex, named the "Centro de Salud para Familias, added 5,000 square feet of space. It was the first Medical-Dental office in South Merced not near the Merced Community Medical Center.

September—In 1975 a federal law required a full range of medical services to federally funded migrant health clinics. As a result in 1977, Merced Family Health Center took over operation of clinics run by Stanislaus County Medical Society in Empire and West Modesto. They established a clinic in Patterson replacing the four clinics that were run by the Stanislaus Medical Society.

1978

January—The Los Banos City Planning Commission voted to approve a new location of the Family Health Center Nueva Esperanza near the hospital. The new center would be located 167 feet north of West I Street and allowed the center to improve services to their patients and work more closely with doctors and medical staff.

1979

February—Patterson's new medical clinic located at 44 North 3rd Street had an open house on Saturday February 3rd. The new facility was an expansion of the former location at Mayette Street. Services offered: medical, dental, nutritional and related services to patients in the Patterson, Westley and Grayson areas.



Outreach Efforts in Newman

By Maria C. Orozco

On May 31st, Golden Valley Health Centers and Corporation For Better Housing worked together to offer a dental health screening fair at Mustang Peek Village Apartments in Newman. Both the Health Promotions and the Newman Dental departments participated, offering blood pressure screenings, family planning services and most importantly, Dr. Cretan and her dental staff provided basic dental screenings, as well as brushing and dental flossing education.

The Corporation for Better Housing, was established in 1995 with the purpose of fulfilling its mission to provide low to moderate income seniors and families with safe, quality affordable housing, coordinated access to enhanced social service programs, and the dignity and peace of mind which create a better living environment.



Sylvia Hernandez, Patient Care Coordinator & Maria C. Orozco, Health Educator.



Above: Dr. Cretan offering a dental screening. Below: Veronica Cano, Veronica Torres, Mayra A. Garcia, Dr. Barbara Cretan

Homeless Outreach Affordable Care Act Forums

By Juan Villa

Edited by Hannah Garza

On June 8th, Golden Valley Health Centers participated in the second annual Merced Homeless Connect event held at the Central Presbyterian Church. The fair was successful in providing the homeless and those in danger of becoming homeless a multitude of direct services, such as access to health care services, housing and job applications, along with the opportunity to obtain vital records from the DMV, social security and county clerk's office. Participants were welcome to browse the fair, enter a raffle and enjoy a free barbeque lunch provided by the church.

Golden Valley Health Centers' staff and several student volunteers from UC Merced were thrilled to play such a large role in the fair, being the only organization to perform blood pressure and blood glucose screenings. Dr. Salvador Sandoval, of Golden Valley Health Centers' —Planada, was also present assessing patients with abnormal test results. The event organizers wanted to give a special thanks to Dr. Sandoval, as he was first to respond to a homeless man who suffered a seizure during the event. Because of Dr. Sandoval, the man was properly treated and recovered swiftly after his episode.

Overall, GVHC staff demonstrated dedication and commitment to their local community, accounting for 200+ screenings and over 50 one-on-one consultations with Dr. Sandoval. Dozens of participants were referred to local GVHC clinics, many of which were particularly interested in the services provided by our Corner of Hope site.

Lastly, I would like to give a special thanks to those who responded to the invitation to help. I encourage everyone to experience a homeless outreach event. Please feel free to contact me for more information regarding upcoming homeless events.



Our cultural brokers distribute educational materials to attendees.

By Mary-Michal Rawling

Patients, community members and business owners were able to learn more about the Affordable Care Act at two forums hosted recently by GVHC in Planada and Le Grand. The forums, held on June 13th, featured a panel of experts on the new law (also known as the ACA or Health Care reform) and focused on the benefits available to patients and business owners under the law *now*, and also highlighted the benefits that would be available starting in 2014.

The speakers included representatives from the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California, Health Access, and Small Business Majority and were well received. The audience was able to ask specific questions about how the new law would affect their families, businesses and employees. The forums were featured in the Merced Sun-Star and made possible by a grant from The California Endowment.

As part of the Building Healthy Communities initiative, the forums will be held again in the coming months in South Merced and next year in the Beachwood/Franklin neighborhood outside of Merced. Thank you to the GVHC staff in Planada and Le Grand who helped inform our patients about this important event!



Above: Speaker David Chase at the Planada ACA Forum speaking to local residents.

Welcome to the New GVHC Employees in February:

Yoseline Avina, Patient Service Representative
 Deysi M. Flores, Medical Assistant
 Crystal Alejandro Gibson, Patient Service Representative
 Katie Jorstad, Behavioral Health Consultant
 Araceli Martinez, Baccalaureate Social Worker
 Marisol Miranda-Guzman, Medical Assistant
 Johanna Rojas, Physician Assistant
 Angelica Maria Santiuste, Back Office Supervisor III
 Latatanisha Trent, BO Supervisor II
 Gladis Margarita Vasquez, Patient Service Representative

Summertime!

It is now officially summer. A summer heat wave could be coming soon.



When temperatures are high don't forget to:

- **Get Plenty to Drink:** Sweating removes needed salt and minerals from the body.
- **Stay Cool Indoors:** The best way to beat the heat is to stay in an air conditioned area.
- **Wear Light Clothing and Sunscreen:** If you will be in direct sun, use a sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher and follow package directions. Reapply every 2 hours while in the sun.
- **Schedule Outdoor Activities Carefully:** Try to be less active during the hottest part of the day, the late afternoon.
- **Use a Buddy System:** During a heat wave, check on your friends and family and have someone do the same for you.

Taken from the CDPH : Be Prepared California
<http://www.bepreparedcalifornia.ca.gov/BeInformed/NaturalDisasters/ExtremeHeat/Pages/Tips+for+Preventing+Heat+Related+Illness.aspx>

GVHC TODAY Staff

Edited by Amanda Day and Christine Noguera

Please contact Amanda Day at aday@gvhc.org for comments.

