

# GVHC Today

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November 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. In 2012 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.

**Binational Health Week 2012**

GVHC participated in the annual Binational Health Week events in Merced and Stanislaus county.



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**Human Trafficking**

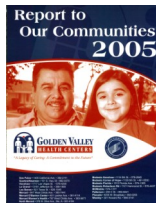
This month we are featuring part two of a series of articles about the crime of human trafficking that enslaves an estimated 21 million people worldwide!



Page 2

**GVHC 2000-2012**

GVHC has done so much since the Y2K scare of 2000. Read here to learn how many new sites GVHC opened in a short nine year period!



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**Member of the Year**

Did you know that GVHC received the Merced Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's Member of the year award?



Page 4

**Reach Out and Read**

Did you know that our Reach out and Read program received a grant from the Carole Stinson Literacy Foundation to help more than 1,400 children receive books at their well child exams?



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## Binational Health Week 2012

By Cesar E. Garcia

Salud Primero es Amor (Health First is Love) was the theme for the 2012 Binational Health Week (BHW) initiative. The BHW initiative is one of the largest mobilization efforts of federal and state government agencies, community based organizations and volunteers in the Americas. In the U.S., the goal of BHW is to improve the health and wellbeing of the underserved Latino population, with the events are planned by committees in each participating county.

For the past seven years Golden Valley Health Centers has been a member of the Merced BHW Committee and this year, GVHC staff participated in events in both Merced and Stanislaus counties during the October 1-14 celebration. In Merced County, the celebration kicked off October 2<sup>nd</sup> with an inauguration reception featuring Jerry Tello, the acclaimed writer and motivational speaker and Reyna Torres Medivil, consul of Mexico in Fresno as the guest of honor.

There were 7 very successful events this year which included screenings at the Atwater, Los Baños and Planada migrant camps, Los Baños and Atwater flea markets, and two full health fairs, one in Livingston and the main one in Merced.

In Stanislaus county, GVHC staff participated by doing outreach during the Tzu-Chi Clinic event that was held October 7, 2012 at Hanshaw Middle School. The effort of all the volunteers who made BHW events possible is very much appreciated by the residents served; for many of them these services are the only source of care they receive during the year. Special thanks to all the GVHC employees, Ameri-Corps members and community volunteers who participated in the BHW events this year. Their tireless and generous effort helped fulfill GVHC's mission in the communities we serve.



Left: GVHC staff member Cesar E. Garcia providing a community member with information at an event.

Below: A GVHC staff member, Maria, providing a blood pressure screening.



# Binational Health Week

Cont'd

A total of 2,251 Merced county residents were served during Binational Health Week. See the table below for the breakdown of services and the total number of people who received those services (last row).

Screenings				
Blood Pressure	Glucose	Hearing	Vision	Dental
685	660	203	160	132

Dental	Services	Vaccines
Same Day at Tooth Mobile	At GVHC through Referral	Flu Shots
23	19	369



Above: a GVHC staff member provides a glucose screening for a patient. Also staff provide information and screenings to community members at the Felix Torres Center in Planada.

# Human Trafficking Part 2

By Ronna Bright, MSW  
 Central Valley Against Human Trafficking  
 Edited by Amanda Day

Last month the first article on Human Trafficking gave you a better understanding of what it is defined as and some keys to identifying it. This information was relevant to the November 6th election as Proposition 35 (an effort to increase prison sentences and fines for human traffickers) was approved in the California election by 80% of the voters.

Perhaps you need a better understanding of what victims of human trafficking experience or how they are presented as. So to help you understand here is a story of one of the victims whose story occurred right here in the Central Valley:

Julie (name and circumstances changed for security) was rescued from a home in Clovis, CA. She had presented to numerous systems that failed to recognize or identify a potential problem. Those systems included emergency rooms, Child Protective Services, and law enforcement.

Julie, age 17, arrived at the emergency room with her adoptive mother. The mother had no insurance for Julie and the only form of identification she had for Julie was a birth certificate from a foreign country. Julie confirmed her name and date of birth to medical staff. She had suffered some sort of seizure and had lost consciousness, which the mother explained as common because Julie was always out of control and was a typical teenager seeking attention. Following various tests, it was discerned that Julie had an old fracture of the nose. The mother had no knowledge of the fracture and Julie was too distraught to answer questions. Julie's demeanor was uncontrollable, screaming at the mother that she was lying and she really needed help. Julie was given, as she described, some type of sedative to calm her crying and screaming. Once she was stable, she was discharged into her mother's care.

Three years later, Julie was rescued from her captor and trafficker, her adoptive mother and an investigation ensued. The adoptive mother had brought Julie to the United States 10 years prior, to work as the live-in nanny and housekeeper. Julie suffered emotional and physical abuse, threats, food restriction, and captivity as punishment if she tried to escape or dared to confront the trafficker.

As part of her healing process, Julie explained there was more than one trip to the emergency room but she never understood what was happening to her and, therefore, she didn't know she was a victim of trafficking. She simply knew that her "mother" punished her in brutal ways. But, her "mother" always seemed to have a way of explaining things to anyone who came into contact with Julie who might have helped her.

Awareness, consistent and updated training, and collaborative support for all professionals in a variety of settings, is needed to identify and rescue victims of trafficking and to hold traffickers accountable for their varied crimes. Contact Ronna Bright, Project Manager, at (559) 263-1379 or [ronna.bright@fresnoec.org](mailto:ronna.bright@fresnoec.org) for more information. The Polaris Project maintains the National Human Trafficking Resource Center and National 24-hour Hotline. Information can be found at [polarisproject.org](http://polarisproject.org) or by calling 888-373-7888.

## Golden Valley Health Centers History: 2000-2012

*Golden Valley Health Centers is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year. Journey back with us as we remember some of the events that brought us here! -Amanda Day*

### 2000

**November**-GVHC held an event to kick off the start of a new Cultural Competency Program meant to teach staff and doctors how to take better care of people from different cultural backgrounds. The program was funded by The California Endowment.



### 2001

**March**-GVHC's Homeless Health Care Program's permanent home, the Corner of Hope clinic, was officially opened in March and is located on 6<sup>th</sup> and L Street in Central Modesto.

**April**-A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new John O'Banion Merced Community Learning Center in Merced. The community center would feature a library branch, daycare, police services and a medical clinic run by Golden Valley Health Centers.

**August**-A new Golden Valley Women's Health Center is opened on the north side of Merced.

**October**-Golden Valley Health Center's opened is sixth dental clinic in Planada.

### 2002

**July**-Golden Valley Receives a federal grant for \$433,333 which enabled the company to hire three new physicians and strengthen its community outreach program. GVHC now had 14 locations and served 50,000 patients.

**December**-GVHC earned re accreditation from the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) with a score of 94 out of a possible 100!

**Golden Valley Health Centers celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**



### 2003

**December**-Golden Valley Health Centers held a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for upon the completion of the new 3,800 square foot Los Banos dental offices.

### 2004

**May**-Golden Valley Health Centers re-opened a clinic in Le Grand. The community had been without access to a dentist or clinic where patients could be treated for three years.

### 2005

**July**-Golden Valley Health Centers received a grant from Blue Cross to open a second mobile clinic (MOM II) to serve patients in Stanislaus County (working with schools and the Salvation Army) and in northern Merced Counties.

### 2006

**April**-A ground breaking ceremony was held by the "Building for Success Committee" for a new Golden Valley Health Centers facility that would improve health care access clinic for the Newman, Gustine and Crows Landing area. By February, Golden Valley Health Centers had raised \$1.2 million in pledges.



### 2007

**August**- A fifth Golden Valley Health Center in Modesto was opened at 2101 Tenaya Drive. A federal grant of \$525,000 helped GVHC to open the new 10,000 square foot clinic (with nine examination rooms) that served 3,600 local residents of the Southeast Modesto/Ceres/Empire area.

### 2009

**March**-A Golden Valley Health Centers mobile outreach clinic or MOMobile was designated to be at Riverbank High School and the elementary school (one day at each school). A group of teen activists had previously approached GVHC about providing medical services to the students in Riverbank.



**August**-GVHC opens a new clinic in Turlock on West Main street during National Health Centers week.



## Carole Stinson Literacy Foundation Grant for ROR Program

By Cesar E. Garcia

Continuing Carole Stinson's legacy of promoting reading with children by providing them with books as gifts, the Carole Stinson Literacy Foundation presented the recipients of their 2012 grants. The ceremony took place on October 6<sup>th</sup> at the Palo Alto Women's Club during their annual fundraiser event "A Night in Lisbon", which featured exquisite food, an acclaimed film on Fado music and a captivating Fado concert. GVHC's Reach Out and Read was one of six programs awarded a grant in support of the literacy-promoting efforts with children and their parents. The support of the foundation will help to provide the GVHC ROR program with approximately 1,400 children books which will make routine well-child exams, and dental examinations not only good for the body but they will also mark the beginning of many special moments between parents and their children. Sincere appreciation goes out to the Board of Directors of the Carole Stinson Literacy Foundation and all those who support their efforts. You can learn more about this foundation at [www.carolestinson.org](http://www.carolestinson.org).



Right: Cesar E. Garcia accepts the award at the event.

## GVHC is Member of the Year

GVHC was honored to receive the Member of the Year award from the Merced County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on November 2, 2012 at their annual Installation Dinner. The Awards Ceremony at the dinner recognized outstanding citizens and businesses in our community. Also at the event the chamber introduced and inaugurated the new Board Members and Officers before the community.



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