



Newsletter

Your Community Health Center

Fall 1993

Dr. John Aleman, Presented NACHC Award at Annual Conference

The National Association of Community Health Centers presented John C. Aleman, MD their 1993 Clinical Recognition Award for Overall Clinical Leadership at the annual conference held in New Orleans on August 31. The award is presented annually by the national organization to a clinician at a community health center who has shown a long standing commitment to community health centers through innovation and leadership.

Dr. Aleman was nominated by the Board of Directors and staff of Merced Family Health Centers, Inc. in recognition of the role he has played in the development of a quality health care program. During the last ten years while Dr. Aleman was Medical Director, the organization has expanded from 3 clinic sites with 7 clinicians to a 7 clinic, 25 clinician staff at geographically distant sites in the Central San Joaquin Valley.

Nationally, Dr. Aleman served on the initial Migrant Clinicians Network. In 1990, Dr. Aleman was honored by the National Health Service Corps as the Region IX Clinician of the Year.

In the local medical community Dr. Aleman has served on the Board of Directors of the Merced-Mariposa Medical Society and currently is serving a two year seat as Chief of Staff of Merced Community Medical Center.



John C. Aleman, MD honored for Overall Clinical Leadership

Construction Begins On Patterson Family Health Center

On June 22, 1993 a groundbreaking ceremony for MFHC Inc.'s new Patterson Family Health Center was held. Attending were Arturo Gonzales, Mayor, Pat Maisetti and other individuals who have been key in the realization of a new Patterson Family Health Center.

The new Health Center is scheduled for completion in December with opening slated for January. The new center, with six exam rooms and a three operatory dental unit, will allow for the expansion of both medical and dental services to better meet the health care needs of the area.



The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by Ge Moua, Reyna Gomez, Pat Massetti, Arturo Gonzales, Eddie Buelna, Joe Lozano, Alicia Dicochea, Perry Rickard, and Estanislaus Guerrero.

MFHC, Inc. to Provide Medical and Dental Services to two Healthy Start School Sites

Culminating more than three years of planning among a variety of agencies, two Healthy Start Projects are scheduled to open at two Modesto City Schools; Robertson Road Elementary School on October 12, 1993 and Hanshaw Middle School in December, 1993.

Merced Family Health Centers, Inc. will be providing the medical and dental services at both sites. West Modesto Medical Clinic staff will be staffing the school sites with new staff to be hired as clinic hours increase. Both medical and dental care will be available to all students and to the family members of students. Both sites will have three medical exam rooms and two dental operatories.

In addition to primary health care, services will include mental health counselling, parenting instruction, case management, as well as numerous recreational and community based programs.

School based services are not a new idea, but through support of the California Department of Education, school based health services are expanding, bringing health care to the community level. The two Modesto City Schools', Healthy Start Projects have stressed collaboration between services providers in combination with strong parent involvement and local control.

A Grand Opening Ceremony is planned for November 8, 1993, at Robertson Road Elementary School. Governor Pete Wilson will be the Guest of Honor. Please join us there, recognizing the hard work and dedication of all responsible for this project's realization.

Migrant Outreach Program Sponsors Successful Health Fairs

The summer months were busy as MFHC's Migrant Outreach Program staff worked diligently in the coordination of five health fairs. Through the fairs, 228 adults were offered glucose, hemoglobin, cholesterol, tuberculosis, vision, blood pressure, and pregnancy screening. In addition staff provided one on one instruction on breast self exam and HIV counseling and testing.

Special thanks to all the MFHC staff who volunteered their time to help, Dr. Adam Sortini, Hugo Mora, Jose Gutierrez of the California Highway Patrol, Holly Cisneros of Merced County Health Department, and employees of CVOC.

MFHC, Inc. Nursing Staff Become CPR Instructors

CPR Certification is now an in-house employee education program due to efforts by Carolyn Pickett, RN, Assistant Operations Director. Eight MFHC, Inc. nursing staff recently attended a CPR Instructor Training Course. All eight nursing staff are now Certified CPR Instructors, thus providing MFHC with a pool of CPR instructors.

CPR Certification is required for all MFHC employees. With its own in-house CPR certification and recertification program, MFHC will be able to offer quality CPR instruction to both employees and the community. So far, staff from five of MFHC's clinics have been recertified through classes taught by their MFHC nursing peers. A Certification class is planned for the fall along with several community CPR classes for families of patients and other community agencies.

Congratulations to Carolyn Pickett, and all the CPR Instructors; Lupe Saucedo, Gloria Stewart, Janie Zuniga, Sandra Lozano, Mary Garcia, Mary Guerrero, and Patrick Marioni.

TEEN ADVOCATES A Summer Success Story

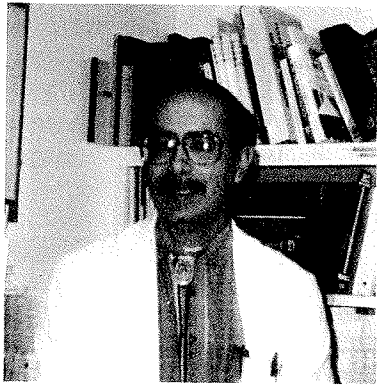
During the summer the Expanded Teen Counseling Program was fortunate to be able to train and hire nine Teen Advocates to work in its three Teens Need Time Clinic programs. The teens became an important part of our clinics, offering one-on-one education to teen patients during clinic hours as well as performing a variety of outreach activities including; WIC presentations, probation department presentations, health fairs, flyer distribution, and informational booths at farmer's markets, malls and local concerts. The five teens in Merced created a short "Options" skit, which they have performed during several staff meetings.

The teens worked through the end of August. Due to the success over the summer, two Teen Advocates will continue throughout the school year at the Women's Health Center.



Volunteers Provide health screenings at the Planada health fair

Dr. Sandoval is Named MFHC's Employee of the Year



Salvador Sandoval, MD, family practice physician with Merced Family Health Centers since 1980, was named Employee of the Year for 1992 at MFHC Inc.'s Annual Employee Appreciation Dinner.

Dr. Sandoval was selected due to his dedication and caring to both his patients and staff. He is always a willing volunteer, providing free care to the homeless, participating in all migrant health fairs, and serving on a variety of minority and community service organizations. Most recently he was recognized by being named to serve on a National Advisory Council on Migrant Health. He is widely recognized as an authority on farmworker health issues, particularly in the area pesticides.

Dr. Sandoval and his wife Gloria have three daughters: Cristina, 16, Margarita, 16, and Teresa, 13. In his spare time he likes reading, computers, exercise and helping his wife Gloria in her involvement with community affairs.

Employees Of The Quarter

Blong Xiong

Blong Xiong, started just two years ago with MFHC, Inc., but in that short period of time he has shown himself to be an exemplary employee in his role as a Certified Medical Assistant at Childs Avenue Clinic, East. In addition to his medical assistant duties, Blong interprets Laotian and Hmong for all departments of the clinic. Especially noted is Blong's ability to get along with all staff and his willingness to help patients.

Blong is married to Youa Vang and they are the proud parents of six. Blong's favorite pastime is soccer.



Christine Alvarez

Christine (Chrissy) Alvarez has been with MFHC, Inc. for 16 years, and is currently Medical Records Clerk for the Women's Center where she impresses all staff with her efficient and energetic work style. Nominated for Employee of the Quarter by her co-workers in Women's Center, they all agree that Christine is cheerful, serving as a role model for others.

Christine lives in Planada with her husband Sal, and two daughters; Melonie, 13; and Marisa, 9. In her spare time she enjoys listening to music and gardening.



Gloria Stewart

Gloria Stewart, another long time employee, was nominated by her co-workers in West Modesto Medical Clinic, where she is a Perinatal Case Manager. Gloria, exemplifies what it takes to be a star employee through her efforts to provide quality perinatal care in a caring manner. Through her efforts Spanish childbirth classes and child car safety classes were initiated at West Modesto. Gloria is always actively involved in West Modesto activities, willingly volunteering her time and energy.

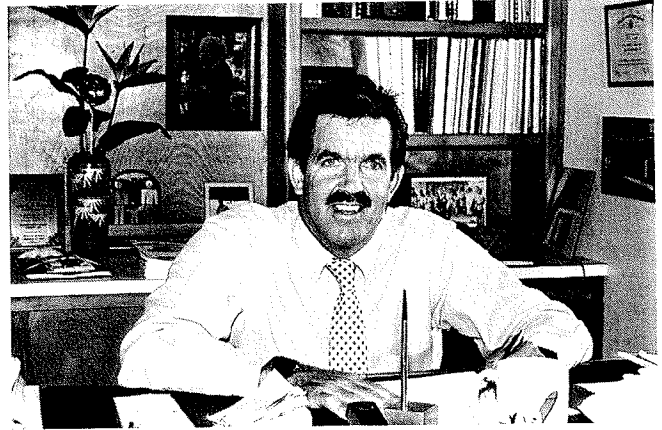
Gloria, originally from Baranquia, Colombia, now lives in Modesto and is the proud mother of four sons, Charles, a perinatologist in North Carolina, Robert, a lawyer in Colombia, Harold, working in education, and Ronald, a student at Modesto Junior College.



...Thoughts from Mike

Michael O. Sullivan
Executive Director

Congratulations and best of luck to the Clintons for introducing a long overdue plan to reform our health care system. It places necessary emphasis on coverage for all, prevention and primary care, lowered costs, reduction of paperwork, creating quality assurance systems, and hopefully, very responsive to consumers by focusing on customer service.



Applause to Noelle Hogan and the Health Education staff for sponsoring two very effective tobacco cessation theme projects, a billboard art contest for Merced County students and our second annual Rollerland Night with more than 450 in attendance. Sometime soon we will be a smoke-free America!

Administration Merced	Childs Ave. Clinic West Merced	Childs Ave. Clinic East Merced	Women's Health Center Merced	Childs Ave. Dental Clinic Merced	Planada Family Health Center Planada	Robertson Road Family Resource Center Modesto
383-1848	723-7078	383-7441	383-5871	383-5764	382-0253	576-4437
Dos Palos Health Center Dos Palos	Family Health Center Nueva Esperanza Los Banos	Nueva Esperanza Dental Clinic Los Banos	Patterson Medical Clinic Patterson	Patterson Dental Clinic Patterson	West Modesto Medical Clinic Modesto	West Modesto Dental Clinic Modesto
392-2111	826-8128	826-1094	892-8441	892-8441	576-2845	576-8310

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