

impact

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A publication for friends of Swope Health Services.

SHS Expands Presence in Kansas with Swope Health Midtown

In Summer 2011, Swope will begin serving patients at its new Kansas location, Swope Health Midtown, 1202 N. 38th Street

The clinic site was formerly owned and operated by Providence Medical Center and serves a large number of underserved patients in Northwest Wyandotte County. Wyandotte County ranks last (105th out of 105) in the entire state for the lowest health and socioeconomic indicators.

When Swope leadership learned of the imminent closing of the Providence Medical Center clinic, they understood that its departure would leave a significant void in patient care for this community. According to the US Census Bureau 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, 44% of the Wyandotte County population are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Such high poverty levels make access to affordable health care services a tremendous challenge for these communities. Wyandotte County is the third most populous county in Kansas but has the highest percentage of uninsured individuals in the state. For the low-income residents in this area, transportation is a daunting barrier to accessing health care. Many do not own their own cars or they have older, unreliable vehicles that are frequently out of commission.

Swope administration viewed these circumstances as an opportunity to further its commitment to meeting the needs of the underserved, uninsured and

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Swope Health Services Opens Clinic in Southland

A grand opening was held earlier this year at Swope Health South, Swope's newest clinic, located at 8825 Troost Avenue.



E. Frank Ellis, Chairman of Swope Community Enterprises addresses supporters gathered in the patient waiting area at Swope Health South. **Verneda Robinson**, President & CEO of Swope Health Services, stands to his right.

The 5,000 sq. ft. community medical clinic features completely renovated medical and administrative support space to include six exam rooms, two triage rooms, an onsite lab, and a community meeting room. Four doctors staff the health clinic and provide services for adults, OB-GYN and Pediatric patients. Patients can also access chronic disease management materials and information from the clinic's patient education rooms. "Swope Health Services is thrilled to bring primary care services to the South corridor and hope that area residents will take full advantage of our presence and services," said Dr. William Pankey, Chief Medical Officer for Swope Health Services.

The opening of Swope Health South was a collaborative effort between local elected officials, The Local Investment Commission (LINC) and KCMO Health Department. Funding for the clinic included a \$320,000 grant, via LINC, from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, with another \$200,000 provided by the City Health Department. "We are honored to be a part of this effort to establish a health resource here in South Kansas City," said Verneda Robinson, President & CEO of Swope Health Services. "Often, transportation is a barrier to receiving health care for uninsured and underserved citizens; through Swope Health South, we will bring services to this area of need," she added.

Top photo: Richard Swan was the very first patient received at Swope Health South, shown here in consultation with Dr. Tinka Barnes.



My Father's Guardian Angels

Hello. My name is Ana Morales. This is my mother Rosa and my father, Luis Rodriguez. I speak for my father tonight, who is a patient at Swope Health Wyandotte. He has been a type 2 diabetic for much of his adult life. Unfortunately, he received a diagnosis about 17 years ago that said his blood sugar was not so bad. But it was bad. He was OK in the early years. He stayed very active working in construction, welding and landscaping, among other jobs, and that helped. But later in his life, we would see him suffer the symptoms; shortness of breath, tiredness, swelling of the legs, blurry vision, high blood pressure, and often headaches. We would tell him that he must go see a doctor. But he would say, "Oh, I just don't trust those doctors." And "Oh, this man will be fine! It will all go away on its own." But I know this avoidance was mainly because of the cost.

By the time we found Swope Health Wyandotte, the diabetes had done extensive damage to his heart and kidneys. The doctors and staff at this clinic were able to get my father to trust them, and that alone was a huge accomplishment. I knew this was

the case because one day he came home from the clinic with his toe nails clipped! We said, "Papá, you let them touch your feet?" He answered, "Yes. They were very gentle. And they also massaged my legs. They LOVE me there!" We were surprised because he is so ticklish. He would never let us touch his feet, although when we were younger he would wake us up for school by pulling on our toes.

The staff at Swope was very worried about his blood pressure because it was often very high. They knew something was very wrong with my father but they needed the help of a hospital to determine the extent of his internal damage. But because he was uninsured, they could not find the help.

In the beginning of this year, my father had two heart attacks. He needed quadruple by-pass surgery immediately. When we heard the news, we were very worried because even though we knew Swope Health was doing all they could (and more!) to help my dad get his health back on track, there was no way we could afford such a costly surgery.

Perhaps we're right. Maybe there are guardian angels at Swope. Somehow, they persuaded the hospital that performed the surgery to waive the fees.

After the surgery, there was talk of dialysis because of the toll it would take on his kidneys. His lungs still fill with fluid periodically and he must return to the hospital to have them drained. But the staff at Swope Wyandotte taught us the warning signs to look for.

I wish we had found Swope Wyandotte much sooner for my father's sake, but we are glad that we are there now.

"Moving Forward While Reaching Back"



U.S. Representative Emanuel Cleaver encourages Kansas City's young, bright minds to stay engaged with their home town.

When most college students are home for winter break, they are hanging out with family and friends, lounging around the house, shopping. Two college seniors had something else in mind for this year's break. Melessa Johnson, a senior at New York University and Spencer Hardwick, a senior at Harvard University, decided it was time to inform and motivate other college students about the value of giving back to the Kansas City Community. On January 7, 2011, Swope Health Services hosted over 20 college students to discuss "Moving Forward While Reaching Back". Melessa and Spencer invited U.S. Congressman Emanuel Cleaver to help them encourage the assembled students to re-engage with Kansas City once they have completed their degrees. There was a wide range of university representation including New York University, Harvard University, Texas A&M, Purdue, Howard University, MU, KU, Missouri State, Kansas State, and UMKC.



Swope Health East Opens To Serve Comprehensive Mental Health Services Clients

SHS recently opened a clinic within the new headquarters of Comprehensive Mental Health Services at 17844 E. 23rd St. in Independence, Missouri.

Swope Health East provides services to Comprehensive's 6,000 mental health patients who require appropriate and timely primary medical care. Integrating primary medical care directly into a mental health center will ensure that clients experience a holistic continuum of care on site. The health delivery model will decrease emergency room visits and reduce the unnecessary occupancy of medical beds by behavioral health patients requiring episodic care in local hospitals through prevention and ongoing outpatient medical care.



Comprehensive Mental Health Services' newly-built facility features an attractive exterior (see top) and a bright, airy lobby.

"We anticipate that this primary care clinic will serve as a model for others to help break down the barriers that have prevented mental health consumers from receiving appropriate and timely medical care," said Gloria Joseph, Vice President of Swope's Behavioral Services. Swope and Comprehensive staff also expect that the presence of an on-site clinic will ultimately reduce acute hospitalization, improve disease management and ensure availability of preventive care. This integrated health care model will provide the connecting link between behavioral health management and psychological support and, equally as important, connect the value of psychiatric consultation with a primary health care system.

"SHS is providing thorough assessments, medical examinations, some laboratories on-site, much-needed and overdue referrals for dental care, medical procedures, and specialty follow-ups," said Joy Copeland, Vice President of Comprehensive Mental Health Services. "Our customers are very pleased with the services Swope is providing. We believe that the partnership with Swope will continue to be productive and beneficial to everyone," she added.



Dr. Jackie Schenkelberg treats CMHS patients at Swope Health East, located in the facility's main lobby.

Calling Dr. Cosby!



Comedian, author and actor Dr. William H. Cosby, Jr. stopped by Swope Health Central en route to his engagement at Ruskin High School on Friday, April 1st. He graciously accepted the invitation for an early morning tour and was complimentary of both the facility and the scope of services provided. However, when Dr. Greta Mathis encountered Dr. Cosby at the staff entrance, she was convinced it was an April Fool's joke. "Until he spoke, I thought it was a look-alike! Who expects to see Bill Cosby when you come to work!"

Swope Health Midtown

underinsured in the Kansas City, KS metropolitan area, and initiated a discussion with Providence Medical Center to explore the possibility of keeping this clinic open. Both entities recognized the need for ongoing, accessible and affordable health care for this area of Wyandotte County and a seamless transition in clinic operations was achieved.

Further, the physician who oversees the care of the clinic's 3,000 patients, Maiko Ebersole Robinson, M.D., M.P.H, will remain in place as she transitions to Swope Health Services. A board-certified family practice physician and Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, Dr. Robinson is delighted to continue serving this population among whom she is highly regarded, providing primary care, wellness checks, including Kansas Be Healthy physicals, immunizations, including flu and pneumonia vaccines, physicals (including sports/school physicals), laboratory services and obstetrics/gynecology care.

Swope Health Midtown joins two previously established Swope clinics in Kansas: Swope Health Wyandotte, located at 21 North 12th Street in the Bethany Medical Building, and Swope Health West at 6013 Leavenworth Road.



Construction on Swope Gardens was completed in January 2011.

Collaboration Yields New Housing For Persons With Disabilities

Thanks to a \$1.2 million award from the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), a brand new 15-unit, semi-independent facility now stands ready to serve area persons with disabilities.

"Swope Gardens" located east of Swope Parkway on 60th Street, is the result of a collaboration between the Community Housing Network and The Community Network for Behavioral Health, Inc., better known as CommCare.

Founded in 1992, Community Housing Network (CHN) is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating safe and affordable housing opportunities for person with disabilities. These opportunities range from independent to semi-independent living arrangements. Rent and some other expenses are covered by HUD vouchers and other support from the Department of Mental Health.

CommCare is a not-for-profit behavioral health management organization that works to continually improve access to affordable, quality, and effective behavioral health services for at-risk populations. CommCare was formed in 1995 by eight community mental health centers, three substance abuse agencies, and an acute care state hospital.

As a member organization of CommCare, Swope Health Services stepped forward with the ideal location for the new construction. "Swope owned a piece of property near a couple of our group homes," explained Gloria Joseph, Vice President of Swope's Behavioral Health Department. "We sold CHN the land to build Swope Gardens and we also provide ongoing staffing for the clients who live there," she added.

Samuel Satterfield, President of the Board of Directors of CHN, pointed out that "This takes us one step closer to our vision of persons with disabilities having the same decent housing options that many of us take for granted. We would like to thank everyone in the community who has assisted CHN with this new project."



Swope Gardens features spacious one and two bedroom apartments and a community room where residents can eat, socialize and watch television.

Help us provide health care to our most vulnerable neighbors. Please donate online at www.swopehealth.org.

SWOPE HEALTH SERVICES
Member Swope Community Enterprises

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