

Volunteer Newsletter

HealthFinders Faces Financial Strains

It seems as though everywhere you turn, someone is struggling financially; HealthFinders is of no exception. HealthFinders recently received notification from its main grant funding source, Healthier MN Community Clinic Fund, that we would not be funded starting January 2009. As you might guess, this was very disappointing, since the Clinic Fund has supported HealthFinders for the last three years and because we were counting on that annual funding. The Board of Directors has created a Fundraising sub-committee to address this concern and determine a plan of action to help bring in new revenue to sustain current HealthFinders programs. Realistically, HealthFinders has a time frame of six months to establish and activate a plan to raise additional funds to insure our doors remain open by the end of 2009.

If you or someone you know has experience with fundraising or is a consultant for financial sustainability, please have them contact Angie Koch, Director of HealthFinders at 507-330-4031 or koch.angelica@healthfindersmn.org.

We are looking to making some changes in efforts to save money, which is why we have moved to an e-newsletter format for those who have given us their email.

Other efforts include:

- Having as many individuals use www.goodsearch.com for their main web search engine. Upon opening this page, please type in HealthFinders Collaborative and click on verify
- Joining HealthFinders on April 24, 2009 at The Grand in Northfield of our annual gala.
- Promoting year-end and/or tax-return donations to HealthFinders

Volunteer Spotlight Features

Geri Pichner Faribault, MN

1. **What volunteer role did you play for HealthFinders?** R.N and a student nurse practitioner (N.P.) program
2. **How often did you volunteer?** Every Tuesday and Thursday for the last three months
3. **What did you learn through your experience (both expected for your training and unexpected)?** I tried to learn a little Spanish, but I didn't do so well! I learned a great deal about Primary Care and also the Hispanic community. I learned that there are still a great deal of compassionate, caring clinicians, students, and other volunteers that really do make a difference in people's lives. They volunteer because they care so much. It was very refreshing!
4. **Any favorite patient or family experiences?** There are too many



Volunteer Spotlight
Gerri Pichner
(read below)

Newsletter Spotlight

- HealthFinders Faces Financial Strains
- Volunteer Spotlight, Geri Pichner

Mark your calendars!!

HealthFinders
Gala for 2009

April 24, 2009

The Grand in
Northfield

More
information to
follow

4. **Any favorite patient or family experiences?** There are too many favorite patients to mention, but I can say hands-down that this has been my most favorite population to work with! Everyone is so kind and patient, and very, very appreciative of all the volunteers' work. It's hard to find that! This is the one setting where I went home with a smile on my face every night!
5. **Anything about the work that surprised you?** As a nurse and an N.P. student, I was surprised at how many "text-book cases" I saw! I suspect it was because many patients aren't always getting much preventative care and end up with chronic diseases and conditions that aren't well controlled. I saw so many interesting medical cases that I hadn't seen before in 10 years of nursing! Thankfully, the patients have now come to HealthFinders for care.
6. **Anything else to add?** I signed up to volunteer as a way of also getting my clinical hours in for my Master's of Nursing Program. Angie was very gracious to allow me to have as many hours as I need for my Primary Care clinical rotation. She also gave me every opportunity to get the clinical experience that I needed. I would highly recommend this organization to anyone interested in volunteering and anyone needing clinical experience for schooling. I learned so much in my short time here, and everyone was so helpful and accommodating.

In addition, the clinicians are VERY patient. You don't always find that in a fast-paced traditional clinic setting. The patients were also very supportive and gracious, and I came to know a few of them well. I will miss working with everyone, but you can bet I'll be back to volunteer

**December Helpful Clinic Tip* :*

Rice County Medical Programs available at low-cost:

- HealthFinders clinic is stocked with medication lists from Wal-Mart, Kmart, and other options available for patients to access with their own funds
- Due to financial constraints, it is important now more than ever to stick to the HealthFinders formulary and if the medication desired is not listed, please refer to alternate options (listed above), or simply explain the options to the patient and let them decide how they would like to proceed.
- If a patient is taking a medication on a chronic basis, please inform Noemi or I (while at the clinic) so that we can assist patient in enrolling in an available pharmaceutical prescription assistance program.

**Merry
Christmas
and a
Happy New
Year!!**

*Thank you all
for your
ongoing
volunteer
efforts,
especially
during this
busy time of the
year.*

*Patients are
constantly
stating how
grateful they
are for all of
HealthFinders
staff and efforts
made to keep
this free clinic
opened!*

Questions or comments please email or call Angie Koch at koch.angelica@healthfindersmn.org or 507-330-4031