

Providing free medical services

HealthFinders Collaborative, Inc.

TO PROVIDE QUALITY, ACCESSIBLE, AND CULTURALLY SENSITIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES AT NO COST, TO LOW INCOME, UNINSURED RESIDENTS OF GREATER RICE COUNTY.

Facing Financial budget cuts

How YOU can help!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Contributor Profile - Dr. Wilcox
- Foundation budget cuts
- Volunteer spotlight
- Patient story
- How YOU can help
- Save the Date!! - April 24, 2009 - 6th Annual Gala

Contributor Profile: Dr. Wilcox

1. How did you learn about HealthFinders?

In the ER at District One, we see a number of patients with no home clinic or who are new in community with no connections. If they don't have insurance, those patients can now access HealthFinders. It is a great referral resource for us in the emergency department

2. What do you like most about the work of HealthFinders?

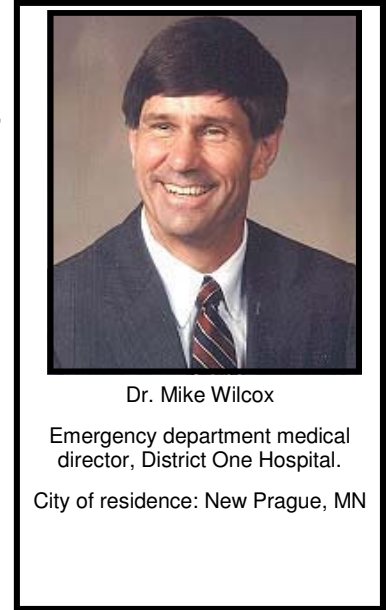
I like the concept of a free clinic in our community. For people without existing relationships with doctors and lacking health insurance, HealthFinders means access to excellent medical care.

3. Why do you support HealthFinders?

There is a real need for a clinic of this type in our area. I've been working at District One since 1992. People without insurance use the emergency room as their primary care clinic. That's expensive and the wrong level of care. HealthFinders give patients the right level of care to deal with primary care issues.

4. What do you hope your financial support will allow the organization to do?

We need to continue to support HealthFinders in our communities. It's an important service in our community that I'll keep supporting. If HealthFinders went away, we would lose the opportunity for patients to have an entry point into the medical system.



Dr. Mike Wilcox

Emergency department medical director, District One Hospital.

City of residence: New Prague, MN

CLINIC STATISTICS (June 2005—October 2008)

Patients Served	1119
Clinic Visits	2508
Number of Rx's filled	4598
Present Date Statistics	
Diabetic Program (Max Capacity = 22)	22
Clinic Volunteers	81
Student Volunteers	21

HealthFinders affected by foundation budget cuts

For the past three years of HealthFinders (HF) existence, the Healthier MN Community Clinic Fund (HMCCF) has been a significant funding source in insuring that our doors remain opened.

HMCCF was created by a consent order between Blue Cross Blue Shield Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Commerce. The consent order was necessary to correct an excess surplus situation that occurred when the tobacco industry began making payments to Blue Cross Blue Shield Minnesota for the costs of treating smoking-related illnesses.

In 2008, the Foundation received applications (for 2009) totaling over \$26 million in request and only had the capacity to give \$8 million in grants. Although HF has been funded in the past, it was not se-

lected for funding in the 2008 grant cycle. Future funding cycles have not yet been established.

Over the past three years, HealthFinders has received between \$40 to \$82 thousand in funding and our budget expenses ranged between \$80-\$130 thousand annually. Therefore, HMCCF has covered at least 50% of our budget expenses.

As of January 2009, HealthFinders is no longer receiving HMCCF funds and therefore have begun to tap into its savings.

As a young organization, HealthFinders has been deliberate in planning financially for such an economic crisis so as to have time to outline and implement its sustainability. Although this budget cut came sooner than expect, HealthFinders has already begun

to take the necessary steps to assess our sustainability.

HealthFinders seeks YOUR help in creating and implementing a sustainable plan.

If you or someone you know has development expertise and would be willing to donate some time and expert advise, please contact the director, Angie Koch at 507-330-4031 or via email at koch.angelica@healthfindersmn.org.

In addition, please read the back of this newsletter to find a list of ways you can become involved in insuring HealthFinders keeps its doors opened!

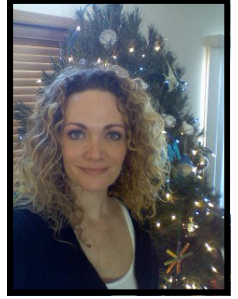
Flip over to find out how **YOU** can help!!!

Volunteer Spotlight

(Excerpt from December Volunteer Newsletter — For a complete article please visit www.healthfindersmn.org and click on newsletters)

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 later with my new degree!



A patient recently said: "Our family has suffered a series of misfortunes which has left us without medical insurance. Once we discovered the blessings of HealthFinders, we began to utilize their services rather than relying on the emergency room as our primary care physician. My husband...has been at least six different occasions and our son...at least three times. I was just amazed that even when our car broke down...they sent a cab to pick him up and to bring him home. HealthFinders has been a saving grace. They have taken our hand to help us with the first step in the arduous task of [getting back on our feet]. Their compassion is the light that guides the way."

How YOU can help!

We are looking to making some changes in efforts to save money.

Please inform us if you are willing to receive our newsletters via email at koch.angelica@healthfindersmn.org

Other efforts include:

- Board of Directors
- 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
- Clinic volunteers: receptionists, medical providers, nurses, Spanish interpreters
- Joining HealthFinders on April 24, 2009 at The Grand in Northfield for our 6th annual gala.
- Promoting tax-return and/or annual donations to HealthFinders
- Offering your expert advise as an in-kind donation in efforts to keep our doors opened

Save the date!!!



HealthFinders Sixth
Annual Gala
Fundraiser
Dessert Theater
April 24, 2009
The Grand in
Northfield

Please visit our website at www.healthfindersmn.org for updated information

HealthFinders seeks:

- Sponsors
- Auction items
- Ticket sales
- Donations
- Creative minds



Questions, comments or donations— please contact: HealthFinders Collaborative, Inc - Angelica E Koch, Director

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