



GUARDIAN

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WINTER 2006

KIDNEY, EYE SCREENINGS Slated for February

Two free health screenings will be held in February. A **vision screening**, sponsored by **Prevent Blindness Tri-State** will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 7 from 1:30 to 5:30. A **kidney screening**, sponsored by the **National Kidney Foundation**, is scheduled for Feb. 11, Saturday, from 9 to 2. Both will be held at the main clinic, 428 Columbus Ave., New Haven. Patients and the general public are invited. For information and pre-registration, call Bob at 503-3276.

NEW Medicare Prescription Plan Now in Effect

The new **Medicare Prescription Drug Plan** started Jan. 1, 2006. All the 1,505 HHC patients 65 years or older are eligible for the new benefits that will help pay for prescriptions at the pharmacy.

The Hill Health Center's in-house pharmacy at 428 Columbus Avenue accepts almost all the new prescription plans. **Catherine Sharafanowich**, pharmacy director, says "It's a really complicated system." She advised patients to bring in their Part D insurance cards. "We're doing everything we can, but it's hard to contact the companies and process claims."

EYE CLINIC Rededication



An expanded Eye Clinic at 428 Columbus Ave. was rededicated on Nov. 15. Those present included: (seated from left) CEO Cornell Scott, Board Members Arlyne Dildy and Mabel Carroll. Standing, from left, Board President Andrea Jackson Brooks, COO Gary Spinner, Christina Ciociola of the Community Foundation, Marna Borgstrom and Arthur Lemay from Yale-New Haven Hospital and Dr. Suzanne Forster, Eye Clinic medical director.



Candlelight Vigil Remembers the Homeless

The first day of winter – the longest night of the year - was the setting for this city's first candlelight vigil to commemorate the homeless people who have died in the last year.

New Haven joined the more than 125 cities that observed the 15th annual national commemoration day of the tragedy of this preventable condition. The December 21st vigil in the New Haven City Hall Atrium was marked by a reading of the names of deceased homeless people, as well as remarks by community representatives.

The event was sponsored by the Hill Health Center's **Homeless Health Care Program**. Its coordinator, **Toni Harp**, said, "I think the important thing to remember is that these deaths were entirely preventable. If our cities make affordable housing, living wages and accessible health care their top priorities, we will not have to hold any more memorial services for people who died without housing - because there will be no more people who die without housing."

GATEWAY and HILL HEALTH Form Nursing Alliance

Gateway Community College and Hill Health Center have formed a partnership to address the nursing shortage in the community health setting.

The collaboration is financially supported by a new federal program called "Grow Your Own Health Center Nurse."

The major purpose of the "Grow Your Own Health Center Nurse" program is to help address the nursing shortage and recruitment problems experienced by Federally Qualified Health Centers by training employees from the community as basic level registered nurses

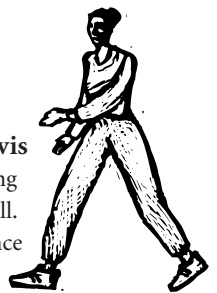
A second purpose is to establish long term linkages between schools of nursing and health centers to provide clinical training sites at the health centers for the nursing school students. An expected outcome of this program is to assist HHC in recruiting nurses by increasing the number of nursing students exposed to its programs and populations.

The grant award of \$600,000 for four years will allow HHC and Gateway to support student recruitment, selection and retention activities, basic level registered nurse education, and the use of HHC clinical sites for nursing education. Gateway will give preference in the selection of students to four qualified HHC staff.

More than 20 HHC staff have expressed an interest in the Gateway Nursing Program and two are enrolled for the fall semester. HHC staff mentored 29 Gateway nursing students in the fall semester at six HHC sites, including three school-based health centers.

WALKING for HEALTH

Ella Manning, a health educator for the Center's Davis Street School clinic, was selected to attend the Walking for Health conference at the University of Illinois last fall. Ella was one of 12 people in the U.S. to receive conference scholarships. The conference was sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the American College of Sports Medicine. Ms Manning has organized walking programs for Davis School students.



YPOP Delivers Excellent Results

The Young Parents Outreach Program (YPOP) achieved tremendous results this year with teenage patients. Only one of the 40 YPOP teens who gave birth delivered a low-birth weight baby. This low 2.5% rate was a "team effort," said Renee Dinkins, YPOP Coordinator. Low birth weight infants (less than 5.5 pounds) are more likely to have health problems and are more common in teenage parents.



CHRISTMAS PARTY on Ashmun Street

The Center's Public Housing Primary Care Program celebrated Christmas with a party and health screening at the Community Resource Center of Monterey Place on Dec. 21. Jennifer Brackett, nurse practitioner, screened for blood pressure, blood sugar and body mass index. Gifts were presented to the children.

IBM Donates Children's Computer to Pediatrics

Children attending the pediatric clinic at Hill Health Center will be able to sit down at a child-friendly computer, thanks to a contribution from the IBM Corporation through the United Way of Greater New Haven.

The computer, a Young Explorer System, comes with software and a Little Tykes Desk. Dr. Robert Windom, pediatrics director, said: "This will be a great learning experience for our young patients."

The Pediatric Department at Hill Health sees about 4,000 children a year.

