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DMF HEALTHY DOSE NEWSLETTER

YOUR

HEALTH

IS OUR

FOUNDATION

DMF Launches Health Coverage Help Line

As part of its statewide Covering Kids and Families Initiative, DMF staffs a toll-free Help-Line that connects eligible callers to low-cost or free healthcare coverage programs. Our 1-877-KIDS-NOW specialist provides confidential assistance, screening and applications for the ND Caring Program for Children, Healthy Steps/SCHIP, and Medicaid. Since DMF began managing the Help-Line in late 2003 over 500 callers have had questions answered about health coverage. As pictured below, Doyle's Yellow Checker Cab, Inc. has donated space on their statewide van to advertise the toll-free number. If you can help us spread the word about these coverage programs, please call Jeana Peinovich at (701) 356-2661.



DMF Establishes First Permanent Scholarship Fund

This year, DMF established its first permanent scholarship fund, the Robert G. Rogers, M.D. Scholarship Fund. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide financial support to deserving medical students at the University of North Dakota.

Dr. Rogers was one of the original founders of DMF. As a highly skilled surgeon, he dedicated himself to developing and advancing medical services in the Fargo area in order to provide medical patients with a superior quality of care. Through this scholarship, his devotion to his patients, the Foundation, and the development of high quality medical services in Fargo will live on. As his wife Helen recently commented, "Bob would be pleased to know he was helping deserving medical students . . . I hope our gift and the scholarship that grows from it will make a small difference for worthy medical students for years to come. We both grew up in and through the Great Depression and recognized the need and desire for, and importance of, higher education and financial security."

The Foundation's initial goal is to build Dr. Rogers' Scholarship Fund to \$25,000 so that it will be able to provide scholarships to medical students for perpetuity. To date, the fund totals \$21,435. To donate to the Dr. Rogers' Scholarship Fund or to find out how to establish a scholarship fund at DMF, please contact Jennifer Thompson at (701) 356-2655.



Robert G. Rogers, M.D.
1916-2002

DMF Invests \$390,000 to Address Nursing Shortage

We completed our Spring/Summer 2004 round of grants and are in the middle of an exciting and busy year! Since the start of the fiscal year on October 1, 2003, we have awarded 38 grants totaling nearly \$1.5 million, including a substantial \$390,000 three-year initiative to the Tri-College University. The Tri-College initiative seeks to address the current nurse shortage by opening up 54 nursing student slots per year at MSUM, Concordia College, and NDSU.

The nurse shortage issue has become an area of great concern for our nation. Locally, only 15% of North Dakota's registered nurses (RNs) are under age 30, with the average nursing age being 45 and many registered nurses nearing retirement age. The North Dakota Center for Rural Health 2002 Nurse Workforce Study recommends increasing the number of students admitted to nursing education programs and increasing access to distance education to ensure an adequate supply of registered nurses for our region's future.

The Foundation's grant to Tri-College will: 1) open 12 nursing student slots at NDSU for LPN's seeking a four-year RN degree; 2) open 10 nursing student slots at Concordia College to individuals who already have a degree in another field but wish to earn an RN degree; and 3) develop a new generic RN track at MSUM that will open 32 nursing slots for freshman students. This project also includes distance education components and the development of rural clinical sites. We anticipate this project will ensure that clinics, nursing homes and hospitals in our region have an ample nursing staff to provide residents with top-notch, quality healthcare services.

The Foundation is currently managing approximately 143 grants, totaling over \$7 million in funding. Over 80 grants were closed in 2003.

Our grantmaking program continues to focus on vital healthcare access needs of our communities and we look forward to addressing additional unmet needs throughout 2004.



DMF Establishes Family Practice Residency

DMF is spearheading the development of a new Family Medicine Residency to serve the Fargo-Moorhead region. The residency program will be sponsored and operated by the newly established Pinnacle Family Medicine Foundation. The residency will graduate a total of six new family medicine physicians per year,



with a total class size of 18 residents enrolled in the three-year program. It is anticipated the residency will accept its first residents in July 2006 and graduate its first class in June 2009.

In March 2004, all of the critical accreditation documents were completed and submitted to the accreditation council. Innovis Health will serve as the primary teaching hospital and several other facilities will be affiliated with the program. Many community physicians will be participating in the teaching rotations, including some rural locations. A Family Medicine Center will be established with three to four full-time physician faculty practicing

medicine and supervising residents. Residents will be trained to provide a full range of medical care services to patients throughout rural and urban North Dakota and western Minnesota.

The residency will receive financial support from several sources including federal funds, DMF, hospital and clinic in-kind contributions, grants, and practice income from patients seen at the Family Medicine Center. The annual budget for the program will be approximately \$3.5 million.

DMF Connects Kids and Families with Health Coverage

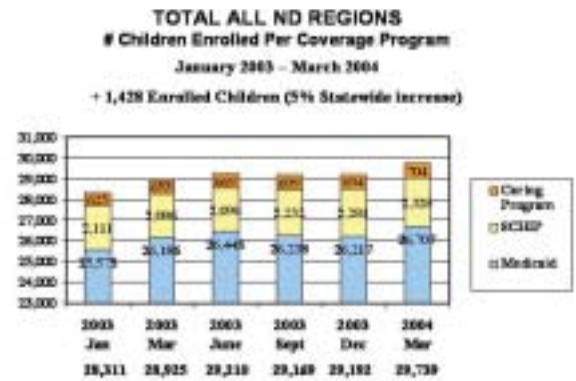
In January 2003, there were an estimated 12,000 uninsured children residing in North Dakota. Of these children, it was estimated that 2/3 were eligible for low-cost or free healthcare coverage programs. In most cases, these children were not enrolled because their parents were either unaware they qualified for coverage or the application process was too difficult to navigate.

Statistics demonstrate that children who lack healthcare coverage are more likely to miss school and to refrain from participating in extracurricular activities, especially athletics. Children without coverage are also more likely to have untreated illness, dental and vision problems. They are less likely to receive preventive care and immunizations, resulting in increased health risks for others as well as themselves. Basically, these children are at a disadvantage to perform well in school and enjoy a healthy, active life.

In late 2002, DMF applied for and received a \$700,000 four-year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to join a nationwide Covering Kids & Families Initiative. The goal of the Initiative is to connect all eligible children to existing low-cost or free healthcare coverage programs offered within their respective state. DMF provided approximately \$600,000 in additional funding and resources to add to the success of the North Dakota Covering Kids & Families project.

DMF's strategy to lessen the number of uninsured children and families in the state is to expand outreach, simplify and coordinate program application and eligibility processes, and find ways to sustain these efforts beyond the four-year grant.

What are the results? Since our efforts began in 2003, the number of children enrolled in the Caring Program for Children, Healthy Steps/SCHIP, and Medicaid increased by 1428!



DMF Administers Federal Access Grant

Based on the first four months of data, the CRCs have recovered over \$803,000 in Medicaid reimbursement (past medical bills and new enrollees) and have obtained \$94,000 in prescription drugs for patients.

Last October, DMF was awarded a \$1.77 million Healthy Communities Access Program grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Bureau of Primary Health Care. DMF has named its grant program the Dakota Communities Access Program (DCAP). The primary goals of the project are: 1) connecting uninsured persons with low-cost or free healthcare coverage; 2) assisting individuals in obtaining prescription drugs; 3) improving dental care access; and 4) implementing diabetes programs with consistent standards of care.

The grant serves a 24 county area in eastern and north central North Dakota, as illustrated in the map's shaded areas. The population of this service area is 401,510, which accounts for nearly 2/3 of the state's population. It is estimated there are over 30,000 uninsured individuals in our project service area.

An essential component of the grant is the placement of Community Resource Coordinators (CRCs) throughout the project's service area. In all, there are 17 CRCs located in hospitals, clinics and two public health facilities. The CRCs work one-on-one to link eligible people to health care programs.

Preliminary statistics reveal that the program is realizing its goals and objectives. Based on the first four months of data, the CRCs have recovered over \$803,000 in Medicaid reimbursement (past medical bills and new enrollees) and have obtained \$94,000 in prescription drugs for patients. Further, approximately 45% of patients referred to health coverage programs have been enrolled.



DCAP Service Area

DMF Matches Donations!

Dakota Medical Foundation's match grant fundraising program leverages donated funds for health-related programs in our region. By providing matching funds as part of an overall joint fundraising campaign, we attract individuals and organizations to donate to programs designed to improve health and access to healthcare for the people of our region. Our program has generated a tremendous amount of community support. In FY 2003, we partnered with the Caring Program for Children, North Dakota Elks Camp Grassick, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Red River Valley Dental Access Project, FirstLINK, and Hospice of the Red River Valley to raise \$279,000 from our communities, which the Foundation matched dollar-for-dollar for a total of \$558,000. If you are interested in contributing or learning more about Dakota Medical Foundation's match grant fundraising program or would like to discuss a fundraising proposal, please contact Jennifer Thompson at (701) 356-2655.

Automated External Defibrillators Save Lives

Since 2000, DMF has funded the placement of 235 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in public locations, police squad cars and rural first responder vehicles to provide immediate medical treatment to cardiac arrest victims in our region. To date, 12 lives have been saved, with a recent life saved in January 2004 by DMF board member, David Clutter, M.D and his wife Linda, R.N., B.S.N.!



On January 14, 2004, Dr. Clutter and his wife were at Hector Airport in Fargo preparing to leave for a family vacation. While waiting in line, a man collapsed in front of the Clutters, who immediately called for the AED. Using the AED, Dr. Clutter and his wife were able to revive the man and save his life. For a list of our AED placement sites and information on cardiac arrest, see the Resources-Healthy Dose section of DMF's website at www.dakmed.org.

DMF HEALTHY DOSE

Check us out in

The Forum!!!!

Every Saturday, DMF has a health information ad, "DMF Healthy Dose" on page A2 of The Forum which highlights specific health issues and provides readers with valuable information to improve their health.

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please provide your email address to Cindy Eggl at (701) 356-2658.



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