



PRIMARY CARING

A PCC Newsletter / Spring 2020 Edition



How You Can Help

Did you know that Montgomery County contracts provided 70% of PCC's funding this fiscal year? We are fortunate to have a concerned local government that is pushing forward a funding package to help respond to the COVID-19 Crisis. We're also lucky to have had sustainable funding from the local government for routine care for low-income and uninsured neighbors.

If you live in Montgomery County, please write to your council members to show your support for Montgomery Cares and Care for Kids. In good times and bad, these essential programs are there to make sure our vulnerable neighbors can get the health care they need.

Council Member Contact Info:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/members



primary care coalition

8757 Georgia Ave, 10th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910
primarycarecoalition.org

A Message From The CEO

Dear Friends,

As we experience the impact of COVID-19 in our community we are reminded just how much we rely on each other. PCC relies on the strength of our partnerships to provide the best care for our clients in ordinary times and we will rely on our community to stand together and support safety-net health care providers in a time of crisis.

This public health crisis has underscored the importance of an effective, accessible, health care system that is available to all residents, not only those who can pay. The real cost of *not* accessing needed care can be life threatening.

That is why coordinating a health care system that provides access to high-quality, affordable health care for low-income community members is central to PCC's work. It was our top concern before the COVID-19 outbreak, and it will continue to be long after.

PCC is steadfast in our commitment to connect the most vulnerable to needed health care. We are working with public health authorities, local hospitals, and safety-net clinics as we always have to identify and address areas where our local health care safety-net system can be bolstered to better respond to the current COVID-19 outbreak and to ensure that patients in need of routine care for chronic conditions, existing illnesses, and other health concerns are still able to get the essential care they need. We understand just how high the stakes are right now. We as a community will endure together.

With gratitude,



President and CEO
Primary Care Coalition

Helping Save Lives

Mac was having a routine colonoscopy when a nurse discovered his heart problem. His heart was beating unusually slow as he woke from the anesthesia. The nurse insisted he get a full cardiac workup as soon as possible. Project Access, our network providing specialty care for uninsured patients, arranged for Mac to be seen by a cardiologist who discovered he needed a pacemaker to regulate his heartbeat. Like most uninsured patients, Mac didn't have the means to pay for a pacemaker, so the practice asked the device manufacturer to donate one, a \$10,000 value. They agreed, and within two weeks Mac was in surgery — also provided pro bono — to receive his new pacemaker. Mac's critical heart condition might not have been discovered without access to routine health screenings and he would not have received the pacemaker or surgery without Project Access's life saving connection to our generous providers who went the extra mile to save his life. **Donate to PCC: PrimaryCareCoalition.org/Donate**



Mac is thankful for the surgical and follow-up care he received.



We're thankful for the dedicated specialists who help us provide lifesaving care every day.

Meet PCC: Joanna Rivera

For nine years, Joanna Rivera has served as the nurse case manager for our Care for Kids program, connecting children who need specialty care to our provider network for treatment. She shows compassion and understanding for our clients and their families, going above and beyond to help meet their needs. Those are just a few of the reasons **Joanna was named PCC's 2019 Employee of the Year**, and we're thrilled to honor her. You have a chance to meet her, too: Joanna will be one of our storytellers at the Stories About Belonging event describing the relationship between her career goals and Robert Downey Jr., along with the job she swore she'd never take. Stay tuned the event date will be announced soon.



PCC and Story District Present:
**STORIES ABOUT
BELONGING**



**What do you get when you combine six of PCC's staff, partners,
and patients with an audience of 80 and a single mic?
*PCC's annual Storytelling Show!***

This event presents health care stories like you've never heard them before. In 2019, those stories included the diagnostic meaning of having "a monkey climbing on your back," the therapeutic effect of Johnny Cash videos, and the power a shared language can have for us all. We debuted the event last year to try a new way of sharing our story, and the feedback was so positive that we were planning for a sequel before the night was done. We love this event, and we hope you will, too. Stay tuned the event date will be announced soon. Sponsorship opportunities will be available.



End Notes

Many of our clients are survivors of trauma, violence, or economic and political instability. Many have fought hard to keep their families together. Most of them are reluctant to share their stories or photo, but they have come to trust us and want to help others by sharing their stories. When I ask them about their hopes for the future, their eyes light up. People who were reluctant and nervous moments ago, open up about their hopes and dreams. Hope is at the heart of the work PCC and our partners do - belief that by connecting our neighbors with care, a better future is within reach. Together, we make a difference in our neighbors' futures. Thank you for being part of this work!

- April Chick, Manager for Individual Giving