



November 17, 2008

Dear President-Elect Barack Obama,

First of all let me congratulate you, your family and your staff on your victory...I know it is just as much a victory of and for the American people!

I was too young to vote in 1960 and yet, I imagined on this November 4th as I cast my vote that the excitement and emotion I was feeling had been felt by the voters in 1960 who cast their votes for JFK...they saw their vote as an opportunity for change, a vote of hope, a vote for the future of America...I feel and felt the same way.

Surely in the next 60+ days you and your staff have many things to do to ensure a smooth transition to the White House, and I know the economy is foremost in your mind as well as having a cabinet in place by inauguration day.

I am writing to you because I feel it is important for you, Michelle and your staff to be aware and informed of a small, but vibrant grassroots inspired community-based healthcare program in southern Maine.

Access Health, Inc., dba Leavitt's Mill Free Health Center, a non-profit, 501 (c) (3), community funded, FTCA approved free clinic founded in 2003 was the brain child of a small group of dedicated local citizens (some of whom are and were healthcare providers) who felt it was important to offer the uninsured and underinsured access to primary healthcare services. We began our 6th year in operation as of September 2008. We have continued to exist these 5 years because there is no alternative that helps all of the uninsured and underinsured.

Leavitt's Mill Free Health Center is totally free and is primarily staffed by volunteers although we do have two part-time employees of which I am one. Our Executive Director and founder of the clinic is also a volunteer nurse practitioner at the center.

Our goal is to ultimately be "out of business" when some form of universal health insurance coverage is available to our nation's 47 million uninsured of whom 125,000 are Maine residents. The state of Maine has in place the "Dirigo" insurance plan that has indeed increased access for some and reduced the numbers of uninsured, but it, unfortunately has been administered by a large insurance corporation and is not the only solution to increasing access. It has a long way to go to meet the healthcare needs of the ever-increasing numbers of uninsured. For many of the working poor (most of our patients are in this category) even the 'reduced premium' is too much in this faltering economy.

I have enclosed our most recent Annual report in order to provide you and your staff with more information about the center.

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It is my hope that perhaps there will be some place in your administration for our own Tom Allen – a supporter of our efforts and a proponent of changing the current healthcare system.

It is also my hope that your administration will do something to recognize the efforts of community-based healthcare programs and support them financially until such time that the “healthcare system” can be changed.

I could go on but I want this letter to be read by you and your staff...if it is too long, I risk not being heard.

I hope that you, or Michelle, or some member of your staff/cabinet will visit us in Maine.

With all my best wishes,

Marcia Bergman
Administrator
Access Health, Inc.
dba Leavitt's Mill Free Health Center
1013 Narragansett Trail
Buxton, ME 04093



Leavitt's Mill

FREE HEALTH CENTER

Community Funded

Annual Report 2008

Our Mission

To improve the health of the community by providing FREE healthcare services to persons who have no insurance or inadequate insurance and by sponsoring health promotion activities for the entire community.

Volunteer Board of Directors 2008

Paul Hitchcox
President

Patricia T. Leavitt, MS, FNP
Executive Director

C. Alan Beagle, Esq.
Secretary

Cathleen Bowen, CPA
Treasurer

Kim Boothby-Ballantyne, FNP
Maynard Charron

Kristi Dearborn
Ex-officio Director

Maxwell House

Albert Lemons, Ph.D.

Andrew Packard, M.D.

George Stockwell, D.O., Ex-officio
Medical Director

~ Vision Statement ~

We believe that professional, respectful, and appropriate healthcare should be equally available to all. We envision the center as a leader in its efforts to improve the health of our citizens.

5 years and still going strong!

Highlights 2008

- ✓ Over 6,300 volunteer hours donated every year.
- ✓ Over 875 clients served since 2003
- ✓ Over 4,400 client visits since 2003
 - 130 New clients in 2008
 - 900 client visits in 2008
- ✓ Over 120 Free Nicotine replacement vouchers dispensed as part of A Health Maine Partnership-Center for Tobacco Independence Program since 2003.
- ✓ Collaboration with CarePartners® - case management, specialist referrals, diagnostic tests and prescription drug assistance—over 30 clients enrolled.

Over \$525,000
dollars in
FREE services
since 2003!

Maine Health/Maine Medical Center Chronic Illness Registry (CIR)

- ✓ 30 diabetic patients entered in registry.

Diabetes Program Initiative

- ✓ Funded by American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.
- ✓ Multi-disciplinary approach to diabetes and pre-diabetes care.
- ✓ Graduate Student Intern from St. Joseph's College.
 - Diabetic Teaching & Exercise Program
 - 30 patients enrolled

Volunteer Provider Recruitment Project

- ✓ Funded by Narragansett Number One Foundation.
- ✓ Incentive continuing education scholarships awarded to 5 providers.
- ✓ Monthly Dental Hygiene clinics staffed by volunteer hygienist.
- ✓ 3 New Nurse Practitioners recruited.

Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) Deemed Status

- ✓ Malpractice liability coverage for healthcare providers.
- ✓ 9 Volunteer healthcare providers covered by FTCA.

Education and Teaching Site

- ✓ St. Joseph's Graduate School of Nursing.
- ✓ University of Southern Maine Graduate Nurse Practitioner Program.
- ✓ University of New England School of Dental Hygiene.

Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program (MBCHP) Site

- ✓ Free cancer screening for women 40-64 years old.
- ✓ American Cancer Society Grant funded 2 screening days in collaboration with York County Breast and Cervical Health Program and SMMC Radiology Department – Renewed 08-09.
- ✓ Over 60 women enrolled.
- ✓ Fastest growing New MBCHP partner in York County.