



THE
COLORADO
TRUST

ACHIEVING ACCESS TO HEALTH FOR ALL COLORADANS

COMMUNITY *Connections*

2009 FALL EDITION

ACCESS TO HEALTH *News*



Sue Covington, Co-director of Doctors Care, examines 2-year-old Ashley who suffers from a platelet disorder. Doctors Care provides affordable, quality health care to the un- and underinsured in Arapahoe, Douglas and Elbert counties.

CommunityConnections is a quarterly e-newsletter from The Colorado Trust.

WWW.COLORADOTRUST.ORG



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STAYING THE COURSE



Irene M. Ibarra

Dear Friends of The Colorado Trust,

Remember a year ago when it was a tough sell to get the media to pay attention to health care? It was beyond imagination that in a few short months' time we would be overwhelmed by the amount of news coverage about health care and reform. And while these news stories run the gamut, the possibility of achieving health care reform remains a very real possibility. At the same time, we have increasing numbers of individuals and groups working together in Colorado pursuing new ideas and advocating for an improved health care system. Such a strong, united front is essential if we are to successfully weather the current challenges of realizing a better system of health care, particularly in this daunting economic environment.

The Colorado Trust is working to help meet some of the increasing, immediate needs in communities hit hardest by the recession, even as we remain focused on achieving more systemic changes to benefit greater numbers of people into the future.

In this edition of *CommunityConnections*, you'll read how Doctors Care and Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics are working hard to serve a growing number of people who otherwise cannot access health care. And you'll learn about progress being made by the innovative San Luis Valley Health Access Program to provide health care services to those who find themselves without employer coverage. This work is critical as demand for state "safety net" services – such as Medicaid, CHP+ and food stamps – are at an all-time high.

Among the long-term strategies The Trust supports is a new effort to increase broad public awareness, understanding and support for the realization of a better system of providing health coverage and care. As well, we want to ensure that new policies, regulations and programs required to achieve health access for everyone in our state are implemented effectively, and that the commitment to such widespread change remains solid for years to come.

For our grantees, please watch for an online survey that will be sent out soon to current and former Trust grantees. Your input will help us to better understand the networks you have in place to achieve access to health for all Coloradans. Responses to the survey will be kept confidential and used by The Trust to inform our development of upcoming grant opportunities.

We hope to hear back from many of our grantees in response to this survey as our connections with you, and your relationships with many other people, coalitions and networks are the strongest resource we have in working to achieve a healthier state.

Sincerely,

Irene M. Ibarra
President and CEO

ACCESS TO HEALTH *News*



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DENVER CHAMBER LUNCHEON TO FEATURE HEALTH CARE ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce's 7th Annual Health Care Policy Luncheon on November 10th at the Brown Palace will feature initial learnings from an upcoming report on the economic impact of health care in Colorado. The study is being conducted by Len Nichols, PhD, of the New America Foundation and Henry Sobanet on behalf of the University of Denver's Center for Colorado's Economic Future. To register for this event, please contact Kelly Underell, Public Affairs Specialist, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, kelly.underell@denverchamber.org or 303-620-8077. For more information about this study, contact Christie McElhinney, Vice President of Communications & Public Affairs, The Colorado Trust, christie@coloradotrust.org or 303-837-1200.

Exempla presents the **DENVER METRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

7th Annual Health Care POLICY Luncheon

Hosted in collaboration with Action 22, Business Health Forum, Club 20, Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry, Colorado Competitive Council, Colorado Concern, Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce, National Federation of Independent Business and Progressive 15

Please join us to preview a new study commissioned by the **Colorado Health Foundation** and **The Colorado Trust** about the impact of the health care system on Colorado's economy, as well as the potential impact of health care reform.

Tuesday, November 10, 2009
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
The Brown Palace Hotel
321 17th Street
Denver, CO 80202

Member Ticket: \$55
Non-member Ticket: \$65

Please register at www.denverchamber.org/hcevent

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact **Kelly Underell** at **303-620-8077** or kelly.underell@denverchamber.org

The Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce complies with the gift limits imposed by Amendment 41 to the Colorado Constitution

The Future of Colorado Health Care – An Economic Analysis of Health Care Reform and the Impact on Colorado's Economy

Findings presented by:

Len Nichols: Nationally renowned health care policy analyst of the New America Foundation

Charlie Brown: Director of the University of Denver's Center for Colorado's Economic Future

Henry Sobanet: Colorado budget and fiscal expert and founder of Colorado Strategies LLC



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FRONTLINE TO RE-AIR "SICK AROUND THE WORLD"

FRONTLINE will re-air its popular documentary, *Sick Around the World* the evening of Tuesday, November 10th. In this hour-long program, T.R. Reid explores how other industrialized countries deliver health care and what the United States can learn from their experiences. Check local listings for air time.

Learn more about this program, as well as the subsequent documentary, *Sick Around America*, and short video segments produced by T.R. Reid relating these lessons to health care challenges and opportunities in Colorado at www.coloradotrust.org. For additional information, contact Christie McElhinney, Vice President of Communications & Public Affairs, christie@coloradotrust.org or 303-837-1200.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/sickaroundtheworld/>. The page features the FRONTLINE logo at the top left. Below it, a large blue banner reads "Sick Around the World" with the subtitle "Can the U.S. learn anything from the rest of the world about how to run a health care system?". To the right of the banner is a "Watch the Full Program Online" button. Below the banner are navigation links: "Five Capitalist Democracies & How They Do It", "Interviews", "Analysis", and "Q&A With T.R. Reid". There are also links for "Join the Discussion" and "Live Chat With Correspondent T.R. Reid". At the bottom of the page, there are logos for PBS, MacArthur Foundation, and Park Foundation, along with a funding notice. On the right side of the page, there are sections for "TODAY ON FRONTLINE" featuring a woman's portrait and "NEXT ON FRONTLINE" featuring a blue pill graphic.

EXPAND HEALTH *Coverage*



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DOCTORS CARE REGROUPS TO MEET INCREASING DEMAND



Thanks to Doctors Care, the Berry family – Stephanie, Brian and their daughters (l. to r.) Katelyn and Ashley – have access to the health care services they need to monitor and treat the girls' autoimmune disorders.

At Doctors Care in Littleton, the paradox of federal stimulus dollars is hitting home.

“Included in the package of statewide budget cuts that went into effect in September are reduced fees paid to doctors and hospitals that care for Medicaid patients, and a call for health clinics to chop their budgets, even as they’re receiving stimulus funds,” said Bebe Kleinman, Executive Director of Doctors Care which provides affordable, quality health care to the un- and underinsured in south Metro Denver. “It’s scary.”

Indeed, due to state budget cuts, Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN) made the difficult decision to close the doors of its Littleton clinic in November. This leaves Doctors Care as the only safety-net medical home in Littleton and, as such, the clinic is preparing for a potential influx of thousands of new patients from Arapahoe, Douglas and Elbert counties.

“In the first six months of this year, we served 1,100 new patients, 80% of whom are pediatric patients like little Ashley and Katelyn Berry,” Kleinman said. “Last year, we served 5,000 patients, and this year we expect the number of total patients we see to top 7,000.”

The sisters are regulars at Doctors Care where Katelyn, 4, is being treated for a kidney disorder and 2-year-old Ashley is monitored for a platelet disorder that also requires frequent visits to a specialist at The Children’s Hospital.

“When our first pediatrician retired, no one else in the area would take us,” said Stephanie, the girls’ mother. Katelyn and Ashley have Medicaid, while Stephanie and her husband, Brian, who works for his family’s excavation business, are uninsured. “My husband remembered Doctors Care from when he was a kid, and we’ve been coming here ever since.”

“We have no plans to reduce services,” said Kleinman. “Rather we’re asking, ‘how can we increase access to health care?’ Since we’re not federally-qualified, and therefore ineligible for stimulus funding, we need to boost our support from private individuals, faith-based communities and others, and we need to get better about telling our story.”

At the same time, Doctors Care is working to recruit additional medical partners. The organization boasted a network of 550 doctors in 2008, and is up to 717 physicians participating in the volunteer network so far this year. Doctors Care also receives in-kind support from five hospital partners, a figure that has increased significantly from \$6.3 million in 2008 to \$5 million in the first half of 2009.

“Without Doctors Care, I don’t know where we’d be,” said Stephanie. “The clinic is essential to my family. As a community, we need to support it.”

Doctors Care is among 14 safety-net providers supported by The Colorado Trust to offer comprehensive care for more children statewide. For more information, please contact Deidre Johnson, Program Officer, deidre@coloradotruster.org or 303-837-1200.

INCREASE *Availability of Care*



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MOBILE HEALTH SERVICES FOR DPS STUDENTS



Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics' mobile unit is bringing health care services to seven DPS schools in northeast Denver.

Help is underway for the growing number of Denver Public Schools (DPS) students without access to health care. Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics (RMYC) has begun providing mobile health services at seven DPS schools. This one-year pilot program aims to expand health care among 2,500 students, especially while the district's resources to do so remain limited.

“Delivering primary care at schools is an evidence-based approach to increase access and remove barriers to care,” said Stephanie Wasserman, RMYC Director of Community and School-based Health Programs. “Five afternoons each week, our care mobile will

provide basic medical services to middle- and elementary school kids primarily in Denver's northeast quadrant where the need is great.

“By maintaining electronic medical records on our care mobile, we will improve efficiencies and expand our medical home approach to care. Students' medical records – including histories, diagnoses and treatment plans – will be easily accessible and available at all RMYC facilities, including our downtown clinic where DPS students and their families may choose to access future or ongoing care.”

Participating schools include:

- Amesse Elementary
- Envision Leadership Prep School
- Ford Elementary
- Place Bridge Academy
- Smiley Middle School
- Smith Renaissance School of the Arts
- Stedman Elementary

To complement the DPS' district-wide approach, RMYC is collaborating with Denver Health and other providers that already serve DPS schools. “Together, we can not only avoid duplication of services, but also distribute health resources across the district and increase opportunities to coordinate primary care, dental and behavioral health services over time,” said Wasserman.

With support from The Colorado Trust, RMYC is consistently bringing health care to children in their communities. For more information, please contact Deidre Johnson, Program Officer, deidre@coloradotrusted.org or 303-837-1200.

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NEW HEALTH ACCESS PROGRAM IN THE SAN LUIS VALLEY



Gwen Heller, Vice President of Provider Integrated Strategies & Physician Services at the San Luis Valley Medical Center, is partnering with health care providers, employers, consumers and others to provide basic preventive care to some 5,000 uninsured.

In the gorgeous landscape of the San Luis Valley, many of its nearly 48,000 inhabitants forgo health care.

“We have extremely high cycles of poverty throughout the six-county region,” said Gwen Heller, Vice President of Provider Integrated Strategies & Physician Services at the San Luis Valley Medical Center (SLVMC). “We don’t have a large economic base. Many of our employment opportunities are seasonal, and many of our businesses are mom-and-pop enterprises. As a result, 18% of people who live here are un- or underinsured.”

To help fill the gaps, SLVMC looked to Pueblo’s Health Access Program as a model by which to provide health care services at a reduced rate. “The idea is that employers with fewer than 50 employees, and employees who earn less than \$15 per hour contribute to the program in equal shares,” explained Heller. “The enrollment process is based on the employee not having health insurance for at least one year, which is when workers tend to get lost between their employer’s coverage and private insurance.”

Hospitals and health providers are also part of the coverage pool, agreeing to serve program participants at lower rates.

“It’s a collaborative effort,” Heller said, noting that the program will be up and running in early 2010. “We’re currently conducting community forums to discuss what kinds of benefits should be included in the program, how much individuals and employers are willing to pay, and what hospitals and health providers are willing to offer.

“The goal is to develop a basic coverage plan that emphasizes preventive care and routine lab services, some specialty services and outpatient mental health services. We’re studying the top diagnoses in the region to ensure that we’re meeting the needs of our target population.”

As a community-based effort, the San Luis Valley Health Access Program requires 501c(3) status. On June 2, HB 1252 – written by Heller, SLVMC CEO Russ Johnson and Cindy Palmer, CEO of the San Luis Valley Health Maintenance Organization – was signed by Governor Ritter, paving the way for the Health Access Program to serve as a pilot system for delivering basic health care services to some 5,000 uninsured adults (ages 18 to 24) in the Valley.

Support through The Colorado Trust’s Partnerships for Health initiative is helping the SLVMC get community buy-in, design the benefits plan, set prices, and conduct outreach and enrollment of participants. For more information about the Health Access Program, please contact Ginger Harrell, Program Officer, ginger@coloradotrust.org or 303-837-1200.

ADDITIONAL *Programs*



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IN MEMORY OF PHYLLIS BIGPOND



Phyllis Bigpond, Founding
Executive Director, Denver
Indian Family Resource Center

It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of Phyllis Bigpond, founding executive director of the Denver Indian Family Resource Center (DIFRC). Following a courageous battle fighting lymphoma of the brain, Phyllis passed away on September 26, 2009 – just shy of her 70th birthday.

“Phyllis saw the need for culturally appropriate therapy for American Indian and Alaskan Native families, especially children and youth who show symptoms of serious emotional and behavioral disorders,” said Ginger Harrell, Program Officer of The Colorado Trust. “Her vision and graceful spirit helped serve more than 500 families and 1,200 children since 2000. Her impact on the Denver community is immeasurable.”

The Colorado Trust named the DIFRC as the recipient of its 2008 John R. Moran, Jr. Grantee Leadership Award. The annual award of \$25,000 is made in recognition of exemplary leadership by a current Trust grantee, and is being used by the DIFRC to expand its child welfare services and promote behavioral health.

Additionally, Phyllis – who was a member of Oklahoma’s Yuchi Tribe – was honored by Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper who proclaimed July 30, 2009 to be Phyllis Bigpond day for her 40 years of work in human service programs in Native American communities. Earlier this year, Phyllis was recognized at the 24th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Business Social Responsibility Awards for her commitment to the values of the civil rights leader.

Phyllis received numerous other awards throughout her career, including being named Outstanding Native American Leader by the Association of American Indian Social Work and earning the Distinguished Alumni Award from Washington University’s George Warren Brown School of Social Work.

Phyllis will be dearly missed by her friends at The Colorado Trust.



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TRUSTEE NEWS

Delta Dental to be Honored at National Philanthropy Day

Delta Dental Plan of Colorado will be honored as *Outstanding Small Business* at National Philanthropy Day on November 13 at the Denver Marriott City Center. National Philanthropy Day, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, recognizes the impact philanthropy makes in our lives and communities.

Delta Dental is led by Kathryn A. Paul, President and CEO, who also serves as Chairwoman of The Colorado Trust's Board of Trustees. The nonprofit organization offers accessible dental health coverage to Coloradans through the state's largest dental network. The company partners with dentists statewide to offer quality care at reasonable prices and strives to educate Coloradans about the importance of good oral health.

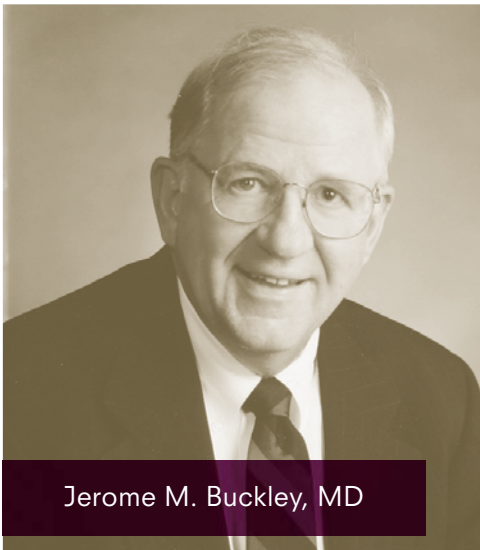
Additionally, the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce honored Paul with a Lifetime Achievement Award at its 2009 Annual Awards Luncheon.



Kathryn A. Paul

Dr. Buckley Named Health Care Champion

Jerome M. Buckley, MD, has been named a Champion in Health Care by *The Denver Business Journal* for his community outreach efforts. Jerry served as a Trustee of The Colorado Trust from 1998 through 2008. The retired CEO of COPIC is active on the boards of Mercy Housing, the Life Quality Institute, the Colorado Health Foundation and the Colorado Health Institute. He also serves on the medical advisory committee for the Colorado chapter of United Cerebral Palsy, teaches a class on the foundations of doctoring to CU medical students and is working to change the current medical liability system.



Jerome M. Buckley, MD



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NEW STAFF MEMBER

The Colorado Trust is pleased to welcome Scott Downes as its new Senior Project Director. He will manage The Trust's grant strategy to raise the awareness, understanding, support and demand to achieve, implement and sustain access to health for all Coloradans.

Scott comes to The Trust from the Colorado Center on Law and Policy and the Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute where he served as communications director. Along with a decade of experience in communications, Scott also has extensive experience in policy development, political campaigns and research. He formerly served as press secretary and policy advisor to two governors, and as communications director to a congressman. Scott holds a bachelor's degree in Government and International Studies from the University of Notre Dame. Please join us in welcoming Scott, scott@coloradotrust.org!



Scott Downes



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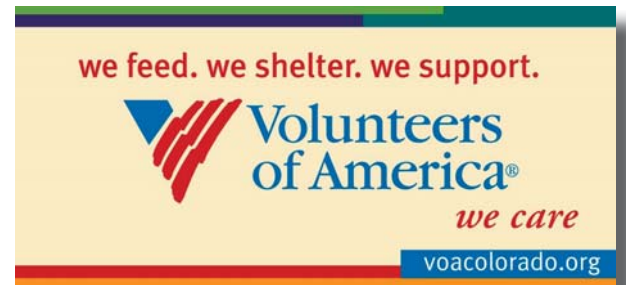
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VOA HONORS TRUST AS OUTSTANDING FOUNDATION

The Colorado Branch of Volunteers of America (VOA) has selected The Colorado Trust to receive the *Outstanding Foundation Award* for its Healthy Aging initiative.

Through this effort, 20 senior-serving organizations are working to increase access to senior support services, address senior residential needs, bolster caregiver support services, and promote healthy lifestyles and overall wellness among seniors. In particular, the VOA recognized the Larimer County Office on Aging for its oversight of a county-wide coalition that helps family caregivers maintain their health and well-being as they look after frail, aging loved ones.

For more information about The Trust's healthy aging focus areas, please contact Ginger Harrell, Program Officer, ginger@coloradotrusted.org or 303-837-1200.





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NEW PUBLICATIONS



2008 Annual Report

Now available online and in print, The Colorado Trust's *2008 Annual Report* details the thinking behind our 10-year vision to achieve access to health for all Coloradans by 2018.

In addition to detailing many of the complex problems within our health care system and the associated Trust strategies to help address these challenges, we are pleased to include thoughtful essays from dedicated Coloradans working hard to improve quality, affordable health care and coverage, including:

- Dede de Percin, Executive Director, Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
- Stacey Moody, Project Director, Colorado Covering Kids and Families
- Jay Want, MD, President and CEO, Physician Health Partners, LLC, and
- Russell W. Johnson, CEO, San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center

As well, we have included hopeful stories of change and improvement from grantees, a listing of all grantees and financial information.

Our thanks to the wonderful people, organizations, agencies and communities we have had the opportunity to partner with in our shared goal of achieving greater opportunities for the people of Colorado to enjoy good health and, in turn, a good life.

Journal Features Advocacy Evaluation Model

Foundation Review features an article in its latest edition (Volume 1, Issue 3) on a new model for evaluating advocacy efforts. "A Model for Multi-Purpose Advocacy Evaluation: Building Grantee Capacity and Capturing Collective Progress" details an evaluation of advocacy efforts underway in Colorado. The evaluation has been designed to:

- Build grantees' capacity to evaluate their work and incorporate real-time feedback (i.e., now, not after the project is completed) into their strategies
- Monitor the progress of each grantee toward achieving the policy goals it set
- Assess growth in capacity of Colorado's health advocacy community as a whole.



NEW Publications

New Publications, *continued*

Tanya Beer, Assistant Director of Research, Evaluation & Strategic Learning, The Colorado Trust, and Ehren Reed, Senior Associate, Innovation Network, Inc., authored the journal article to share early lessons learned from The Trust's evaluation of nine health advocacy organizations to increase access to health care through policy change.

Each Trust grantee meets a need in the advocacy community – from leadership development, policy research and legislative advocacy to community engagement and organizing. Representing health providers, faith-based organizations, communities of color and consumers across Colorado, the grantees are working to strengthen the impact and expand the breadth of statewide health advocacy efforts.

A team of Colorado-based evaluators is providing evaluation assistance to the grantees, as well as tracking cooperation and alignment among advocacy organizations to help hone their strategies. The article describes this experimental evaluation model, and explains the challenges and opportunities faced by the grantees, evaluators and the foundation.

To read the full article, subscribe to the *Foundation Review*, foundationreview.org. For more information, please contact Tanya Beer, tanya@coloradotrust.org or 303-837-1200.

Journal Highlights Healthy Community Findings

From the evaluation of The Colorado Trust's Colorado Healthy People 2010 grant (2002-2007), *Public Health Nutrition* (Volume 12, Issue 10) recently published "Perceived Access to Fruits and Vegetables Associated with Increased Consumption." The article examines the association between access to fruit and vegetables, and changes in fruit and vegetable consumption among 130 participants in nine community-based health promotion programs.

Results confirmed that greater availability and access to fruits and vegetables is associated with corollary increases in their consumption, leading to the conclusion that environmental factors play an important role in achieving healthy eating among community members.

The full article is available for purchase at Cambridge Journals, <http://journals.cambridge.org>.

For more information about the Colorado Healthy People 2010 evaluation, please contact Nancy Csuti, DrPH, Director of Research, Evaluation & Strategic Learning, nancy@coloradotrust.org or 303-837-1200.





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NEW WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA FEATURES

If you haven't already done so, please sign up at www.coloradotrust.org to receive automatic notice of Trust news and information on health care access, or subscribe to The Trust's RSS News Feeds for headlines and announcements as soon as they're published, including:

- Daily health news in Colorado and nationally
- Announcements of publications and research
- Career and funding opportunities
- Stories of change and improvement from grantees across the state.

We also invite you to comment on Trust news releases, and to bookmark and share our website pages with others.

As well, The Colorado Trust is dipping its toe in the water with social media via LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook. We look forward to hearing from you through these venues, and to exchanging ideas about health care and health coverage in Colorado.

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WEB*Extra*



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