

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7, 2008

Contributions of Volunteer Clinicians to Colorado Communities Honored

DENVER— Last night, the Colorado Community Health Network honored the contributions of volunteer clinicians to the health care received by patients of Community Health Centers. Many Health Centers rely on these health care providers for services otherwise not available for their patients.

The Outstanding Volunteer Clinician Award recognizes volunteer (unpaid) clinicians who have been dedicated to serving the needs of the medically underserved. Awardees provide direct patient services in a Community Health Center or to the Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved Referral Network, lead advocacy activities on behalf of the medically underserved, and have provided volunteer service for a minimum of three years.

Three clinicians were honored last night. They are:

- Thomas Sutton, O.D., Colorado Springs
- James A. Patterson, M.D., Clinica Family Health Services, Inc. – Thornton
- Terri Rosenbaum, M.D., Clinica Family Health Services, Inc. – People's Clinic, Boulder

Thomas Sutton, O.D.

Dr. Sutton has volunteered at Peak Vista Community Health Centers since July 2004. He has faithfully given four hours per month performing diabetic screenings on over 3,500 patients. He belongs to Vision Source, a network of over 1,600 optometry practices in the United States. Sutton assisted Peak Vista in acquiring two new eye projectors. In addition to serving the Colorado Springs community, Sutton collects used glasses in his office and makes an annual trip to the poorest areas of Mexico, refurbishing the glasses to fit new people, trying to prevent the refractive blindness that happens throughout the world.

Dr. Sutton will be leaving Peak Vista soon and has already recruited his own volunteer optometrist replacement. He will stay on until the new optometrist is credentialed and oriented to the clinic.

James A. Patterson, M.D.

Dr. Patterson is an ophthalmologist who has steadfastly helped Clinica Family Health Services in Thornton with seeing their diabetic eye patients for more than four years, often on days off from his own private practice. Patterson provides specialist services to diabetic patients who often have no other access to the help they need.

To maximize his service, group visits are planned quarterly and Dr. Patterson will see twenty to forty patients in one session, occasionally scheduling the patients with most serious complications to be seen at his practice at no charge to the patient. His valuable services help Clinica staff prevent complications of diabetes mellitus, including blindness. His actions show support of Clinica's mission and a love of his profession.

Terri Rosenbaum, M.D.

Dr. Rosenbaum, a gynecologist with her office at Boulder Community Hospital, is always willing to help Clinica Family Health Services - People's Clinic with gynecological cases, C-sections, and coordinating care with other specialists, seeing indigent patients in her office without charge.

In addition, Rosenbaum has volunteered with the medical missionary team from Boulder Community Hospital that travels annually to Boulder's Sister City of Mante, Mexico. There she gives free medical and surgical care to indigent patients.

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To reach these clinicians, please contact Maureen Maxwell at (303) 861-5165, Ext. 259, cell (303)913-9078, or maureen@cchn.org.

The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) is the collective voice for Colorado's 14 Community Health Centers (CHCs) and their patients. CHCs provide a health care home to one in 12 Coloradans from 54 of Colorado's 64 counties. Without CHCs, hundreds of thousands of Colorado's low-income families and individuals would have no regular source of health care. CCHN's mission is to increase access to high quality health care for people in need in Colorado. For more information about CCHN, please visit www.cchn.org.

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