



# CCHN NEWSLETTER

## WINTER 2023



### Community Health Center News

#### Colorado CHC CEO and Strangers Come Together for a Rescue

*Editor's note: This is a story about the kind of people who are out there, working at Community Health Centers and other places, and helping others out. We feel privileged to share this special narrative with you.*

In November, Helen Royal, CEO of Summit Community Care Clinic, joined several other Colorado CHC leaders and staff from Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) and the Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS) at a national conference hosted by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) in Ft. Lauderdale. After the Colorado conference goers met up at a nearby restaurant for supper, Helen was feeling very full and decided she would go for a walk around the neighborhood. It was about 10:30 p.m. As she passed a parking lot, she heard a kitten mewing.

She entered the lot to look for the cat. The lot's security guard came over and told her she couldn't be there. When Helen told him why, he realized he could hear the kitten, too, and joined the search, although he required Helen to stay outside the fence.

They found the car where the kitten seemed to be up in the engine. The guard called the owner, who was not home. As Helen and the guard were considering what to do, they realized the kitten had moved to the next car, a Mazda, again up into the engine and mewing.

The guard knew the second car's owner and called her, but she thought it sounded suspicious and refused to come down. The guard also called his wife to ask about bringing the cat home. Soon, another woman drove up and introduced herself as the daughter of the Mazda owner, who had called her and asked her to check out the truth of the guard's story.

Lauren, the daughter, joined Helen and the guard in trying to get the kitten out of the car. Since it was after-hours at the local animal shelter, Lauren's mother called the fire department, which pitched in, sending a firetruck and crew.

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***"It was just a coming together of people from all walks of life and humanity for a common cause of helping a creature in need. That's like a Community Health Center: we're all there to help those in need. This so mirrors the health center movement."***  
***- Helen Royal***

They tried several techniques to get the kitten to crawl out of the engine, including a heat-seeking device to detect where the kitten was hiding and using water to flush the kitten out, neither of which were successful.

In the meantime, the car owner and a friend had joined the group in the parking lot, and she had pulled lawn chairs out of her car and sat down to watch. She also brought a box to put the kitten in once rescued and one for a litter box. Helen hiked up to the beach to get sand for litter.

By this point, around 1:00 a.m., Helen said she'd take the kitten home to Colorado if they got it out, and everyone exchanged phone numbers. The car owner had to go to work in the morning but said she would not drive the car with the kitten in it.

A man who lived in the same building as the car owner was walking his dog and offered to help. He brought the dog up to the car to try to draw the cat out but that didn't work. He took his dog home, returned, and ended up jacking up car to have better access to the underside and engine.

At 2:00 a.m. Helen received a text from Lauren, who said they got the kitten out of the engine and that she would take it home overnight.

The next morning at the Colorado table at the conference, Helen shared her story with a fascinated group. One member of the group, Shannon Connell, CCHN's Workforce Manager at the time, has parents who live in another Florida city and she offered to change her flight and drive the kitten to her parents, who have experience fostering rescued cats.

Lauren started telling Helen (by text) that maybe she, Lauren, should keep the cat but had never owned one. She had spent the rest of the night researching cat information. "It was endearing how she was so obsessed about doing the right thing with this cat," said Helen. It turns out that Lauren is in the health care field, too.

Lauren did end up keeping the kitten, now named Maze in honor of the Mazda from which she was rescued. Lauren and Helen stay in touch and exchange updates and cat photos (Helen is an experienced cat rescuer). Maze, who was scruffy, dirty, hungry and had fleas when rescued, is now clean and getting healthier.

"You know what, there are some happy endings out there, and we don't often get to see that. It was cool to be a part of this story, as weird as it might be," said Helen. "That little kitty was so determined to be heard. And it was amazing how many people at the Colorado table at the conference were so interested in hearing the story and trying to think how they could help. Again, that's the kind of people who work at CHCs."

## Appreciation for Marguerite Salazar

Our friend and colleague Marguerite Salazar passed away on Nov. 1, 2022. Marguerite was a leader in health care in Colorado and New Mexico.

Marguerite led Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc., headquartered in Alamosa, Colo., for nearly 25 years as president and CEO. Valley-Wide now has sites in 16 counties across the San Luis and Arkansas River Valleys. While at Valley-Wide, she was appointed twice by former Gov. Bill Owens to serve on the state Medical Services Board, which oversees the rules for state health care programs, including Medicaid, Children's Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+), and the Colorado Indigent Care Program. She served on the CHP+ Board since its inception.



*Maze, the rescued cat.*

In addition, Marguerite served as president of CCHN's Board of Directors, and served for many years on CCHN's Public Affairs Committee. She attended multiple Policy & Issues conferences hosted by CCHN at the state capitol and by NACHC in Washington, D.C. She was a consultant for the Bureau of Primary Health Care under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the areas of governance and administration.

In 2010, President Barack Obama appointed her to serve as regional director for the U.S. Department of Health of Human Services (HHS) under Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. In the HHS role she helped implement the new Affordable Care Act. She served in this role until 2013, when she accepted an invitation to serve as Colorado Insurance Commissioner under then-Governor John Hickenlooper. In 2017, Gov. Hickenlooper appointed her to be the executive director of the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies. Later, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan appointed her to lead New Mexico's Regulation and Licensing Department.



*Marguerite Salazar.*

Marguerite was the recipient of multiple awards, including the Betsey K. Cook Advocacy MVP Award and the Aaron L. Brown Memorial Public Service Award, given by NACHC; the Iglehart Award for Leadership in Health Policy, given by The Colorado Health Foundation; and in 2014 was included in the Top 25 Most Powerful Women by the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce. When Marguerite departed Valley-Wide to accept the Obama appointment, CCHN's Board of Directors designated April 30 as "Marguerite Salazar Day" to recognize her contributions to community health.

Family was especially important to Marguerite. She and her husband, Arnold Salazar, were together for 46 years, and had two children, Ursula and Max. Marguerite had five siblings, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and more family who gave her joy.

We in the Colorado Community Health Center family thank Marguerite for her service and commitment to the health care access for all.

## **Valley-Wide Shares the Magic**

The Valley-Wide Health Systems team was excited to host the annual "Share the Magic" Reception and Night Play, called Little Women, at the Adams State University Main Stage Theatre on Dec. 3, 2022. Valley-Wide sent invitations to organizations asking for support for a local grassroots fundraiser in the San Luis Valley. The event benefited La Puente Home and its programs. The partnerships between Valley-Wide, La Puente Home, and Adams State University showed a sense of compassion and support to the communities. Corporate sponsorships ranged from \$2,000-\$5,000 and individual donations started at \$100. The event raised a total of \$70,100 for La Puente Home.

La Puente serves the San Luis Valley, providing emergency shelter, food assistance, transitional housing, self-sufficiency services, homeless prevention services, community outreach services, and job training for the homeless and other community members in crisis. La Puente strives to meet immediate needs and empowers people to live independently. Enjoy reading more on the [La Puente website](#).

## Clinica's Founding Provider, Inez Buggs, Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

In recognition of providing health care to the underserved for more than 30 years, Clinica Family Health's founding provider, Inez Davis Buggs, received the Lifetime Achievement Award as a Living Legend of Boulder County. Mrs. Buggs, who was as a nurse practitioner at Clinica, received this honor as part of the area celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

"I can't think of anyone more worthy of this award than Inez," said Simon Smith, president and CEO of Clinica. "From the day that Clinica first opened, Inez has been here providing compassionate, comprehensive health care to the people in Boulder County who were struggling to make ends meet. She took care of low-income residents, the migrant workers traveling through the area, and those facing tough times. She never said no just because someone couldn't pay."

The Lifetime Achievement Award is given annually by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Planning Committee of Boulder County, the Boulder Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Second Baptist Church of Boulder. *Inez Davis Buggs.*



"Mrs. Inez Buggs represents the epitome of Dr. King's DREAM of living, loving and serving her 'Beloved Community,'" said Minister Glenda Robinson, founder and chair of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Planning Committee of Boulder County.

Mrs. Buggs joined Clinica's staff in 1977 as the organization's first provider. Being Clinica's first health care provider came with unique duties. If she needed a consult, she would help the patient into her car and drive to the office of the only other medical provider in Lafayette. Every Friday afternoon, Mrs. Buggs and the staff would load her car with medical supplies and drive to the barracks where the migrant workers lived to provide them with care. And to keep Clinica financially afloat, she joined the National Health Service Corps, which paid her salary. All the while, Mrs. Buggs helped the Second Baptist Church with their homeless outreach program, assuring that these individuals could find health care and compassion.

After 30 years of service to Clinica and her patients, Mrs. Buggs retired in 2007. She now serves as a member of Clinica's Board of Directors where she continues to be a strong advocate for patients.

"Over the years, Inez has received numerous awards and recognitions of her dedication to serving the disenfranchised and her commitment to community health," Mr. Smith said. "As Dr. King is famously quoted: 'The time is always right to do what is right.' Inez has lived that philosophy all of her life."

## Endoscopy Suite Open House

Salud Family Health hosted an open house on Dec. 2, 2022, to commemorate the new in-house endoscopy suite at the Longmont Salud clinic. This suite will provide colonoscopies to individuals who are otherwise unable to access this critical screening procedure. Salud received a generous donation from the Russo Family Foundation to purchase the equipment for the suite, in addition to broad community support to fund renovation costs. The endoscopy suite officially opened in December 2022. Salud anticipates providing, and hopefully covering the cost through generous donations, of 1,000 patient procedures per year.



*Left to right: Marta Loachamin, Boulder County Commissioner; Jeanne Guenther, Russo Family Foundation; Dr. Pradeep Dhar, VP of Medical Services at Salud; Dr. Hans Elzinga, family physician at the Longmont Salud clinic.*

## CCHN's Suzanne Smith Honored with Prestigious National Award

Suzanne Smith, CCHN's Director of Health Center Operations, was chosen for NACHC's 2022 Henry J. Fiumelli Patient Advocate Award.

This special national award is given to one staff member of a NACHC-charted State or Regional Primary Care Association who exemplifies passion and commitment to improving the care and quality of life for Community Health Center (CHC) patients. Through their efforts in the primary care association arena, each awardee has improved access to quality primary care for vulnerable people or populations in their respective states. The award was established in 2008 in recognition of Henry Fiumelli's immeasurable contributions to the Community Health Center movement as Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Forum for Primary Health Care.

Ms. Smith has been with CCHN for 14 years and now supervises a team of four, is a member of the CCHN leadership team, and serves on CCHN's Data Quality Assurance Team. She is the staff lead for the Strategic Workforce Committee, Operations Directors Peer Group, co-leads the Pharmacy Peer Group, and supports the Generative Workforce Workgroup. She provides oversight, expertise, and leadership to and for CCHN's CHC Program training and technical assistance, community development, and workforce efforts.

She exemplifies CCHN's commitment to training and technical assistance through her customer service to CHCs, as well as her unique aptitude for remembering minute program details. She calls the Health Center Program Manual "good reading." She embodies CCHN's "no wrong door" approach with members and stakeholders. Her method of community development work is to educate organizations and communities about the CHC model while also strongly advocating for collaboration and connection with existing CHCs. Her approach is data-driven; for the past 13 years, she has led or overseen development of CCHN's gap analysis, which identifies areas of the state that could benefit from increased access to CHCs.

Ms. Smith is a champion of CHC workforce. She maximizes the use of CHC data to help CCHN advocate for workforce programs and funding. She has a special commitment to the development of workforce programs that benefit all CHC staff, not just clinical providers. She has a strong relationship with the Colorado Primary Care Office, engaging frequently in an exchange of ideas that results in more funding and supports for the CHC workforce. Her leadership has helped grow the Colorado Health Service Corp loan repayment program to be the country's largest, and she helped advocate that CHC medical assistants and dental assistants qualify for tuition reimbursement in Colorado's most recent legislative session

"Suzanne is my 'go to' for CHC operations questions. The amount of knowledge she possesses about public policy, compliance, workforce, and her appreciation of the CHC movement is second to none. She always helps me see a situation in new ways and aids me with whatever problem I am trying to solve. Colorado CHCs are lucky times 1,000 to have Suzanne helping us serve patients the best we can," said Donald Moore, CEO of Pueblo Community Health Center.

CCHN has two other Fiumelli award winners on staff: Jessica Sanchez, Vice President of Quality and Operations, 2009 honoree; and Polly Anderson, Vice President of Strategy and Financing, 2011 honoree.



*Suzanne Smith, CCHN (center), holds her award, with 2021 Fiumelli winner Susan Dargon-Hart, LICSW, Senior Vice President, Clinical Health Affairs, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers (on left); and 2020 Fiumelli winner Jenna L. Thomsen, MA, Manager of Partnerships and Development, Health Center Association of Nebraska (right).*

## First-Gen Student Thrives in PCC Medical Assistant Apprenticeship

As one of the first students to enroll in the Pueblo Community College (PCC) medical assistant apprenticeship program, Hailey Adame is discovering the many benefits of earning while she learns. Ms. Adame, 19, is a first-generation college student. She enrolled in a four-year school right after high school but discovered that was not the right path for her. “I thought I had to figure out what I wanted to do with my life right then and there, and I ended up just overwhelming myself,” she said. After moving back to Pueblo, she learned about the PCC apprenticeship from her grandmother and knew it was an opportunity she could not ignore. “I always wanted to go into the medical field, and I thought becoming a medical assistant would be a good first step to my career,” said Ms. Adame.



*Hailey Adame.*

Medical assistants are a liaison between physicians and their patients. They perform clinical and administrative work in doctors’ offices, hospitals, and other health care settings. PCC’s apprenticeship program allows students to work in a clinical setting part-time while earning their associate degree. Ms. Adame works at the Pueblo Community Health Center (PCHC), one of three community partners in the program. The others are Centura and Parkview Health System.

Ms. Adame said she enjoys the people and the environment at PCHC. Once she completes her degree, she hopes to stay with PCHC to get more experience. “I talk with many of the medical assistants at PCHC and they think this program is great. They wish it had been offered when they went to school,” she said. “I really like how everything I learn in school I can apply at work right away. I remember things better with a hands-on approach. Being able to practice things repeatedly really helps me remember things better. I get to see and learn something new every day.”

## 2022 CHAMPS Awards

The 2022 Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS) Awards Ceremony was held virtually on Dec. 7, 2022. The ceremony honored six individuals, including one from Colorado, for their exceptional contributions to the Community Health Center movement.

Carol Lewis, Denver Health Community Health Services (DHCHS) Board Chair, was selected by CHAMPS for the Exceptional Board Leadership award. Ms. Lewis was born at Denver General Hospital (later renamed Denver Health). She worked as a clinical social worker at Denver Health, retiring after 33 years. Ms. Lewis served on the DHCHS Board for 17 years and as Board Chair since 2014.

CHAMPS presents these awards to Primary Care Association staff and CHC staff and board members from Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. For more information about awardees from other states, visit the [CHAMPS Awards webpage](#).

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*Carol Lewis holding her award for exceptional board leadership.*

## Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Welcomes New President and CEO

Britta Fisher will be the next President and CEO of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH), succeeding John Parvensky, the founder and CEO for the last 38 years.

With over 20 years of experience in Colorado addressing the needs of people living at low incomes and with housing insecurity, Ms. Fisher will fill the role at the Coalition following a comprehensive months-long national search. The formal leadership transition is scheduled for March of this year.

Ms. Fisher currently serves as the Executive Director of the City of Denver's Department of Housing Stability (HOST). She was named the City & County of Denver's Most Supportive Leader 2022 and honored as a 40 Under 40 in 2017 by the Denver Business Journal. Nationally, Ms. Fisher serves as the Chair of the High-Cost Cities Housing Forum, a group of nine cities with the highest housing costs in the United States. Prior to her tenure at HOST, Ms. Fisher served as the executive director of three organizations, mpowered, Localworks, and Housing Justice, and previously worked for CCH in two roles in the mid-2000s, including in rural and women's health.

Mr. Parvensky added: "The most important role of the CEO of the Coalition is to lead a talented group of committed employees to continue to serve our unhoused neighbors and those at risk of homelessness through housing, health care, and supportive services. Britta Fisher has the experience, statewide knowledge, passion, and heart to continue and expand the important work of the Coalition without missing a beat. With Britta on board, leading an awesome staff, I can "ride off into the sunset" confident that the Coalition is in the absolute best hands to continue creating lasting solutions to homelessness."

Ms. Fisher is energized by the challenge of the new role, following her 16 years of experience in executive leadership: "It is a true honor to succeed a legacy leader like John Parvensky and steward this successful team and organization in its continued evolution."



*John Parvensky and Britta Fisher.*

## Mountain Family Health Centers Relocated from Edwards to Avon



*Staff posing in the new Avon Integrated Health Center.*

Mountain Family Health Centers moved to a former Vail Health urgent care space in Chapel Square in Avon, Colo. The move was prompted by a desire to expand care, with the new site offering 65 percent more space than the former clinic location. As an added benefit, the Avon site is more centrally located, and right next to a bus stop.

Mountain Family, like other Colorado CHCs, offers whole-person care, including medical, behavioral health, dental, pharmacy services, and outreach and enrollment services, to name a few. With the added space in Avon, Mountain Family plans to launch a Lactation Support Clinic, and offer more obstetrics (OB) care options. They also hope to host larger groups for classes or group therapy sessions. Mountain Family will host an open house event on Feb. 22.

## Two New Senior Leaders at Denver Health

In December 2022, Denver Health filled two senior leadership roles in the organization.

Dr. Steven Federico is the new Chief Government and Community Affairs Officer. Dr. Federico steps into this role as the former Director of General Pediatrics and School and Community Programs at Denver Health. He is also an associate professor of General Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. His past work at Denver Health was as Director of Service for pediatrics in Denver Health's Community Health Centers and medical director of School-Based Health Centers.

In his new role, Dr. Federico will lead Denver Health's vital government relations efforts in better establishing partnerships with and advocating to local, city, state and federal leaders and organizations on behalf of Denver Health. He will maintain and develop new relationships with community and constituency partners, and continue to enhance efforts in community outreach and identify areas of growth. He also will be an advocate on behalf of what the Denver community needs and expects from Denver Health.

Jacque Montgomery joins Denver Health as the new Chief Communications Officer. Ms. Montgomery was previously the Director of Advancement and External Affairs at Colorado Academy. She served as press secretary for the State of Colorado in the Governor's Office from 2017-2019, worked as an executive communications consultant at Kaiser Permanente, and prior to that was executive director of media relations and communications at the University of Colorado Denver, Anschutz Medical Campus.

Ms. Montgomery will lead Denver Health's communications and marketing team in the areas of internal and external communications, marketing, brand and reputation management, media and crisis communications, and will help advise on outreach communication efforts to patients and community.

## Valley-Wide Health Systems and Southeast Health Group Merge

On Dec. 15, 2022, the Board of Directors of Valley-Wide Health Systems and Southeast Health Group (SHG) voted to merge the two entities to better serve clients. The entity will use the Valley-Wide name and logo.

This decision will have a profound impact on the integration of physical and mental health care in the community, and the overall idea of whole-person health care for the rural and frontier counties served in southeast and south-central Colorado. The goal is to complete the merger by June 30, 2023.

In a combined statement from Dr. Jania Arnoldi, President and CEO of Valley-Wide, and Dr. JC Carrica, CEO of SHG, outlined the benefits of this change: "We have always worked closely to meet the needs of our communities, especially where our service areas overlap in the lower Arkansas Valley. Formally merging the companies will help both entities overcome workforce shortage, break down access to care barriers, create communication efficiencies across the many health care services we collectively provide, and focus more attention on innovation."

"The opportunity to merge came at the right time," Dr. Carrica said. "Southeast Health Group has emphasized the importance of treating mental health and physical health needs simultaneously for nearly a decade, but sustaining the service was very difficult because of reimbursement rates. As Valley-Wide continues to grow their integrated model across southeast and south-central Colorado, it just made sense to bring our expertise in outpatient and residential behavioral health. The 111 years of combined health care experience in our organizations creates a very powerful combination for our patients, but it is our end goal to provide a 'no wrong door experience' moving forward."



Similarly, Dr. Arnoldi looks forward to the services Valley-Wide will provide, as well as the leadership and expertise needed for whole-person health care: “The missions and visions of the two companies, as well as our leadership styles complement each other very well. During our discussions about the merger, it was important to keep our patients and the community at the center of our decision. Bringing our two organizations together will truly build an integrated system that helps to ensure our patients get the services they need when they need it. This decision supports the vision of Valley-Wide to be the innovative community leader in advancing the highest level of whole-person health for all. Rural Colorado deserves a more integrated, coordinated, and comprehensive model of health care services. The model makes sense, I’ve seen it work, and I am excited to get started,” Dr. Arnoldi said.

## AIDS Day 2022

Pueblo’s annual World AIDS Day event took place on Dec. 1, 2022, at Colorado State University Pueblo (CSUP). It was an evening of reflection, rejuvenation, and celebration. Time was spent reflecting on the history of HIV/AIDS, looking forward at advanced medicine practices, and celebrating the lives of those lost. The event was presented by Pueblo Community Health Center (PCHC), in collaboration with CSUP, Pueblo City-County Library, Southern Colorado Health Network, and Southern Colorado Equality Alliance. In honor of World AIDS Day, CSUP student Bill Redmond Palmer, in collaboration with the CSUP Center for Diversity and Inclusion, were able to successfully acquire a square of the National AIDS Memorial Quilt.



CSUP’s square of the National AIDS Memorial Quilt.

## School-Based Health Center Open House

On Nov. 30, 2022, Salud Family Health hosted an open house to officially celebrate their School-Based Health Center at the Fort Morgan High School. Salud staff, Fort Morgan School District staff, and Fort Morgan City Council members joined in for a ribbon cutting ceremony and tours of the new facility.



John Santistevan, Salud CEO and President, cuts the ribbon for the School-Based Health Center, joined by Salud staff and Board members, and Fort Morgan City Council members.

# Policy Update

## **2023 State Legislative Session Begins**

The legislative session of Colorado's 75<sup>th</sup> General Assembly began on Jan. 9, 2023. Throughout the legislative session, CCHN and CHCs will be closely watching the state's health care budget and legislative items that could impact CHCs and the patients they serve. Items include Medicaid and the Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC), Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+), access to primary care (including behavioral health services), health care affordability and coverage, and Colorado's health care workforce. CHCs will also share information about the importance of CHCs and the services they provide with Colorado's newly-elected legislators during a visit to the Capitol on Feb. 16, 2023, for CCHN's annual Policy & Issues Forum.

As the session progresses, CCHN staff will keep CHC advocates informed of important issues that arise at the Capitol through CCHN's online grassroots advocacy network. Reach out to Shoshi Preuss, Senior Policy Analyst, at [spreuss@cchn.org](mailto:spreuss@cchn.org), if you would like to be added to CCHN's advocacy network. The session will run through early May.

## **New Congress Convenes**

The 118<sup>th</sup> Congress convened and new and returning members have been sworn in. The Community Health Center movement will continue to update their members of the House of Representatives and the Senate about the comprehensive primary health care provided to their constituents, ongoing COVID-19 response, and integration of medical, dental, and behavioral health care. CCHN will be monitoring Congressional activity on funding for Community Health Centers, workforce training and recruitment programs, behavioral health services, and rules and requirements for these, Medicaid, and programs providing access to discount prescription drug programs.

# CHAMPS Staff Update

## **New staff – Courtney Howell**

Courtney Howell joined the Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States (CHAMPS) team in October 2022. In her role, she is responsible for CHAMPS communication and marketing efforts, and provides support for members and other CHAMPS activities. Ms. Howell graduated from Lafayette College in Pennsylvania in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in international affairs, and women's, gender, and sexuality studies. Her studies and volunteering experiences, both national and international, led her to Madagascar, South Africa and Spain, where she interacted directly with the local communities. Before joining CHAMPS she worked as the assistant program manager for a nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. She moved to Denver in 2021, and has taken advantage of all that the city has to offer. In her free time Ms. Howell enjoys volunteering, rock climbing, skiing, hiking, camping, and exploring the city and surrounding areas.

# CHPA Update

## **CHPA Donates to Local Food Banks**

Community Health Provider Alliance (CHPA) donated a total of \$18,000 to 20 food banks across Colorado in 2022. The donations were made on behalf of each member CHC, to a local food bank of their choice.

When the CHPA network achieves shared savings by meeting quality and cost goals through value-based contracts, which it did in 2021 for the third year in a row, the savings are distributed to its 18 CHC members. The funds are then reinvested into CHC programs that provide high-quality, affordable care to low-income, uninsured, underinsured, and undocumented patients.

This year, CHPA was able to further support CHC patients by donating to the food banks, helping to alleviate food insecurity. For a more information and a full list of the food bank recipients, visit the [CHPA website](#).

## Upcoming Events

### **CCHN Policy and Issues Forum**

The 2022 CCHN Policy and Issues Forum is an in-person event on Feb. 15-16. The event will include an overview of the state legislative and budget process, a dive into CCHN's policy priorities and the 2023 legislative session, a policy panel focused on the current health care policy environment, and CCHN's annual advocacy awards ceremony. Please contact your CEO if you are interested in attending for your CHC; and email Shoshi Preuss at [spreuss@cchn.org](mailto:spreuss@cchn.org), if you would like to become an advocate for Community Health Centers.

### **NACHC Policy and Issues Forum**

The 2023 National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Policy and Issues Forum will be held in-person in Washington D.C., March 8-11.

The event will provide an opportunity to hear from national leaders and peers about areas of concern to the Community Health Center movement. It is also a chance to advocate to your state and federal legislators about the importance of CHCs. In addition to the in-person sessions in D.C., there will be opportunities to advocate from home. Email Shoshi Preuss at [spreuss@cchn.org](mailto:spreuss@cchn.org), if you would like to become an advocate for Community Health Centers.

### **Pueblo Community Health Center Foundation Fundraiser**

Pueblo Community Health Center Foundation is hosting a Fiesta Fundraiser on Oct. 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. MT. The fundraiser will be held at Sangre De Cristo Arts and Conference Center, and will include a Dueling Pianos show. More information to come closer to the date.

# Winter 2022 Newsletter Contributors



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## About CCHN

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*The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) is the unified voice for Colorado's 20 Community Health Centers (CHCs) and their patients. CHCs provide a health care home for more than 855,000 of their community members – more than one in seven people in Colorado - from 63 of the state'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 <https://cchn.org/>.*



If you would like to be added to the newsletter e-mail distribution list, or if you have comments about this newsletter, please contact Maureen Maxwell, CCHN senior manager for federal policy and communications, at [maureen@cchn.org](mailto:maureen@cchn.org) or (303) 861-5165, ext. 259.

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