Celebrating 35 Years of Grassroots Organizing for Health Care Access and Justice

CCHCC Annual Awards Dinner



Friday April 13, 2012



AFSCME Council 3 I salutes the (hampaign (ounty Health (are (onsumers

We're proud to join you in the ongoing battle to make health care for all a reality in our nation



Congratulations to former and current staff, volunteers, health care organizers, and most importantly the community, for struggling for our health care access and justice over the last 35 years! We could not have organized without your support!

- CCHCC Board

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Welcome

Thank you for joining Champaign County Health Care Consumers (CCHCC) for this very special Annual Awards Dinner, celebrating CCHCC's 35th anniversary!

For the last 35 years, CCHCC has been in the forefront of working to improve our community's health, dealing with emerging issues in health care, fighting for justice, and winning concrete improvements in people's lives. And we could not have done it without you!

Let's take a quick look at some of the great things we have accomplished together for our community over the last 35 years. We created a prenatal care program for low-income women, the Dental Referral Program to serve low-income adults, a school breakfast program to serve rural county children, and the Medicare 100/Plus Program to serve low-income Medicare beneficiaries. We organized to create the Champaign County Public Health Department to serve Champaign County residents, and the Child Dental Access Program to serve low-income county children. We have organized to stop numerous unjust practices and unjust legislation. And we have organized to advance good policies and helped pass state and national laws to improve people's lives.

We have provided free help to thousands of community members who needed health care and had nowhere else to turn. We advocated with and for them, and helped them gain access to the health care and social services they needed.

We are facing challenging times now, but I believe that CCHCC's own history shows that we are capable of facing the challenges ahead. And if we ever get tired or discouraged, we should think of our victories – see how much, together, we have accomplished! And then think where we would be, had we not organized and fought for justice.

So, as we look ahead, let us take our comfort and inspiration from our own history of achievement, of struggle for the greater good. And let us also remember the immortal words of Martin Luther King, Jr. – *"We shall overcome because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."*

Thank you for 35 years of support! And thank you for your ongoing involvement and support as we continue our work for justice, and the work to improve our community's health – it takes all of us to make good things happen!

Sincerely,

Claudia Leunhoff

Claudia Lennhoff, Executive Director

Special Thanks

CCHCC thanks the following individuals for helping to make our 35th

Annual Awards Dinner a success:

Jeff Machota – for Adbook design and layout Ron Keller – for Certificates of Award layout Allison Jones – slide show of year-in-review

> **Music provided by:** Jeff Helgesen - trumpet Dan Pierson - keyboard

Floral arrangement provided by: Fleurish

CCHCC thanks the following organizations for purchasing and contributing honorary tables: Provena Covenant Medical Center The Mary Louise White Table

Carle Foundation Hospital

The Harry J. Baker Table

Special thanks to the Illinois Disciples Foundation for co-sponsoring CCHCC's Annual Awards Dinner



CCHCC launches the Campaign for the American Dream.

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CCHCC Staff

Claudia Lennhoff – Executive Director

Grant Antoline – Organizer Paulette Colemon – Organizer Allison Jones – Organizer Jeff Machota – Bookkeeper Jen Tayabji – Organizer Crissy Turino – Consumer Health Hotline Coordinator

Nick Quealy-Gainer - Organizer, Medicare 100 Coordinator

CCHCC Advocates, Volunteers & Interns

Jerehme Bamberger - Volunteer Andy Bloeser - Volunteer Peter Bolton - Volunteer Jennifer Boosey - Volunteer Olivia Brown - Reception Jia Chen - Volunteer Cope Cumpston - Advocate Daphne Erpelo - Volunteer Emily Evans - Volunteer Brittney Frazier - Intern Eddie Galvez - Volunteer Vishal Garg - Volunteer Katerina Georgiafentis - Intern Jenny Goodwine - Intern Sarah Grage - Volunteer Kristen Guth - Intern Sandra Hansen - Advocate Emily Henkels - Volunteer John Hilty - Volunteer

Neha Kapur - Advocate Sandy Morales - Advocate Hannah Nordwall - Volunteer Debra Myers Dobbs - Reception Tim O'Connor - Volunteer Ernest Owens - Reception Bansari Patel - Advocate Tina Pham - Advocate Paige Quinlan - Volunteer Lorena Ramos - Volunteer Mat Rayman - Volunteer Madeline Root - Volunteer Sam Rosner - Volunteer Ari Sahagun - Volunteer Rina Shah - Volunteer Tim Smith - Volunteer James Tropper - Intern Libby Wolfe - Volunteer

2012 Awards

Henrietta DeBoer Volunteer of the Year Award Daphne Erpelo Katerina Georgiafentis

Aimee Olson Advocate of the Year Award Tina Pham

Elsie Field Health Care Provider Award Dankle, Brunson & Lee, DDS

Lester T. Pritchard Citizen Leadership Award Ron Eaker

Harry J. Baker Community Service Award Jude Love

David LeRoy Anderson Community Building Award Emily Evans

> **The Golden Bedpan Award** Top Ten List (The Worst of the Worst)





April 2011: CCHCC staff participates in a lobby day for single-payer health insurance in Springfield.

CCHCC Campaigns and Programs

Issue Campaigns and Task Forces

The Health Care Access Task Force was organized in 2007 to undertake a major community organizing effort to address the massive access to care crisis in Champaign County which had left tens of thousands of people locked out of the health care system, despite our county's ample supply of health care providers. Currently, the Task Force is focusing its efforts on working with our local hospitals to improve their hospital financial assistance programs, increasing access to care to local physicians, as well as working to shape health reform at the state and national levels. Much of the work of the Task Force has focused on producing materials and organizing events to provide user-friendly information to local consumers about new benefits available under health reform. The Task Force is also actively working on multiple fronts including advocating for single-payer legislation, and working to create a non-profit health insurance CO-OP.

The Medicare Rights Task Force was formed in 2005 by Medicare beneficiaries demanding a voice in their health care. Currently the Medicare Task Force is working to protect and strengthen crucial federal and state programs for seniors including Medicare, Social Security, IL Cares Rx, and Circuit Breaker. The Task Force provides a forum for local Medicare beneficiaries to discuss the issues affecting seniors and people with disabilities who have Medicare, and learn about services that are available in our community to help.

The 5th & Hill Neighborhood Rights Campaign started in 2007, is an environmental justice campaign dedicated to protecting the health of the neighborhood residents and the rights of the community in relation to the former manufactured gas plant toxic site owned by Ameren, located at 5th and Hill Streets in Champaign. CCHCC is organizing this campaign in collaboration with neighborhood residents and former residents. The Campaign is currently focused on trying to make the IL EPA and Ameren expand the area of investigation in order to identify all toxic contamination that resulted from the operation of the former manufactured gas plant. In addition, the Campaign is organizing to ensure that neighborhood residents have a voice in the re-development of the Ameren property, which has now been "cleaned." The Disability Rights Task Force was formed in 2004, and is led by community members with disabilities, working to improve the quality of health care available to people with disabilities in our community. Ultimately, the Task Force hopes to see all health care facilities in our community become fully physically accessible, while being committed to, and ensuring staffing capable of providing "patient-centered" care.

The Campaign for the American Dream, founded in fall 2011, is a local grassroots organizing effort to support the growing nation-wide "American Dream" movement. The American Dream movement is a movement for comprehensive, progressive change so that Americans have access to affordable, quality health care, can find jobs, afford to go to college, retire with dignity, and secure a future for their children and their communities. The Campaign for the American Dream organizes local residents to take action as part of the national movement.

Service Programs

The Medicare 100/Plus Program, created in 1984, assures access to affordable health care for low-income Medicare beneficiaries in Champaign County. This community-based program is a collaboration between CCHCC and Provena Covenant Medical Center. The Medicare 100/Plus Program bridges the gap between health care costs and what Medicare reimburses by providing Medicare 100/Plus members with discounts on their out-of-pocket Medicare related charges at Provena Covenant hospital and certain physician practices.

The Consumer Health Hotline, which has been serving Champaign County since 1980, is a unique service that operates under the motto of "empowering consumers to help themselves." The Hotline helps people who are having problems with the health care system. Volunteer Hotline Advocates help people get the health care and other services they need. The Hotline receives hundreds of calls each month.

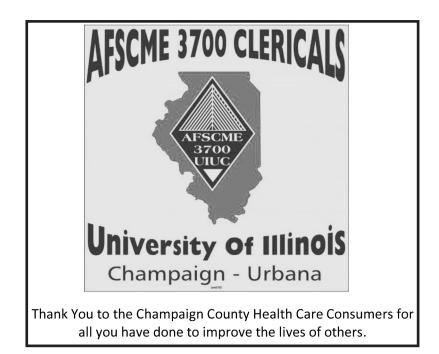
The Dental Referral Program was created in 1992 to provide lowincome, uninsured adults with access to quality, affordable dental care. The Dental Referral Program is a collaboration with area dentists to provide dental care at a discounted rate to low-income adults in our community. CCHCC screens and qualifies the clients and schedules their dental appointments with the participating dentists.

For more information on CCHCC's campaigns and programs, please visit our website at: www.healthcareconsumers.org

Congratulations Ron Eaker! Your leadership captures Lester's spirit of activism!



In honor and memory of Lester Pritchard, whose life inspires us every day to keep fighting for justice.





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Former Staff Congratulate CCHCC on 35 Years of Struggle for Health Care Justice!

Brooke Anderson

Congratulations CCHCC on 35 years of grassroots organizing for health care justice! Your victories for quality, affordable, and dignified health care for all have improved the health of thousands of residents over four decades and inspired movements for health care access nationwide.





Anne Gargano Ahmed

I am so proud to be a member of the CCHCC family. We are such a powerful, well-organized, and scrappy bunch. Here's to another successful 35 years!

Amy Penfold

Happy 35th anniversary CCHCC!





Elizabeth Mazur

Huge congrats to CCHCC on 35 years of organizing for health care justice! I can't believe it's been more than 10 years since I was part of the team. Keep fighting the good fight!!

Megan McClaire

Happy 35th anniversary to some of the most inspiring people I know! May you have many more years of ass-kicking and celebrating to come!





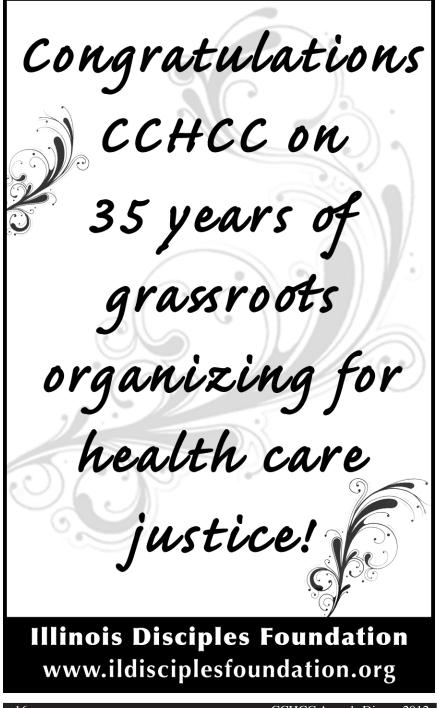
Yadira Montoya

CCHCC, congratulations on another year of fighting for health care justice!

Sanjay Garla

In little over a year at CCHCC I witnessed victory after victory - from establishing a county-wide public health department to blowing the whistle on local hospitals gouging consumers. Congratulations on having 35 years of victories, wishing you 35 even more powerful years!







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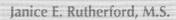
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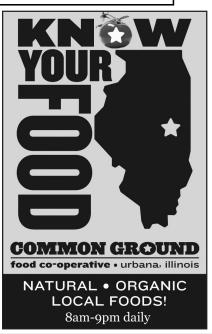
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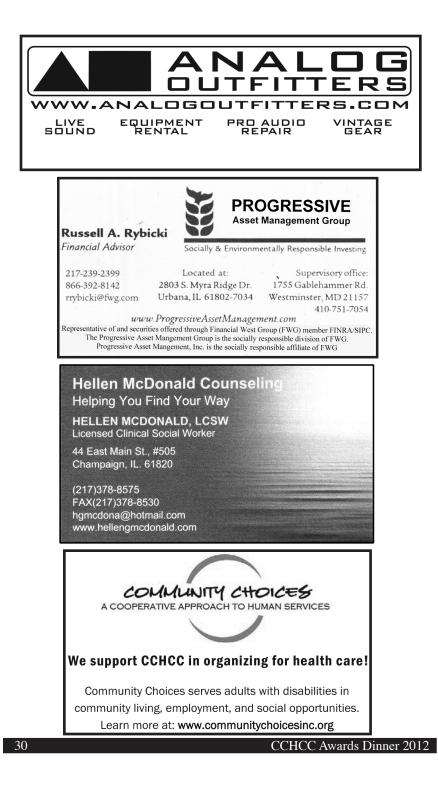
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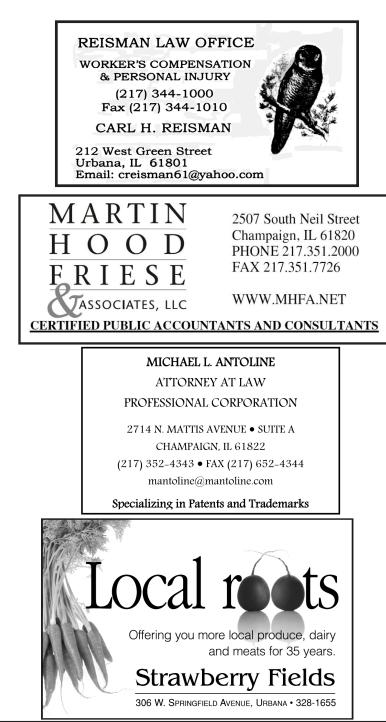
Congratulations Champaign County Health Care Consumers!

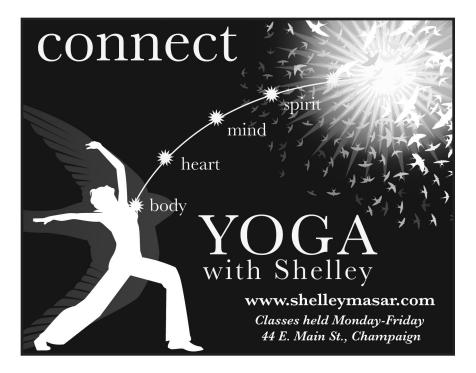
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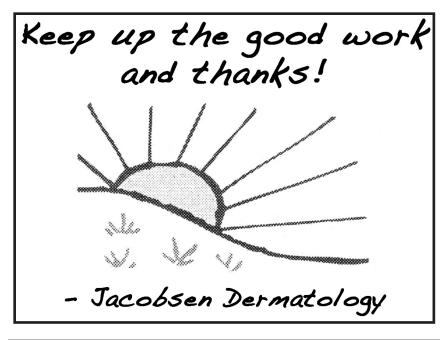
















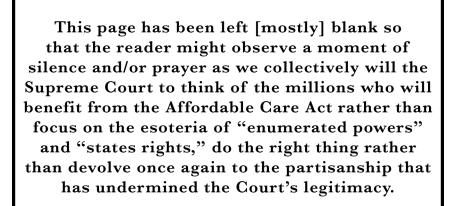


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We admire your commitment to health justice.

Health & Medicine

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CCHCC says goodbye to staff members Yadira Montoya and Anne Gargano Ahmed and welcomes new staff Jen Tayabji, Nick Quealy-Gainer, and Crissy Turino.

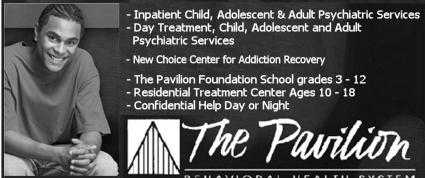
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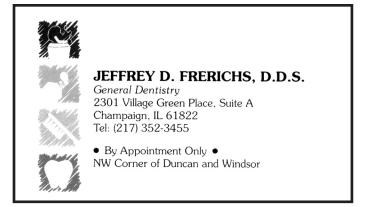
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CCHCC's Medicare Task Force meets each month and works hard to protect the rights of Medicare beneficiaries.



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