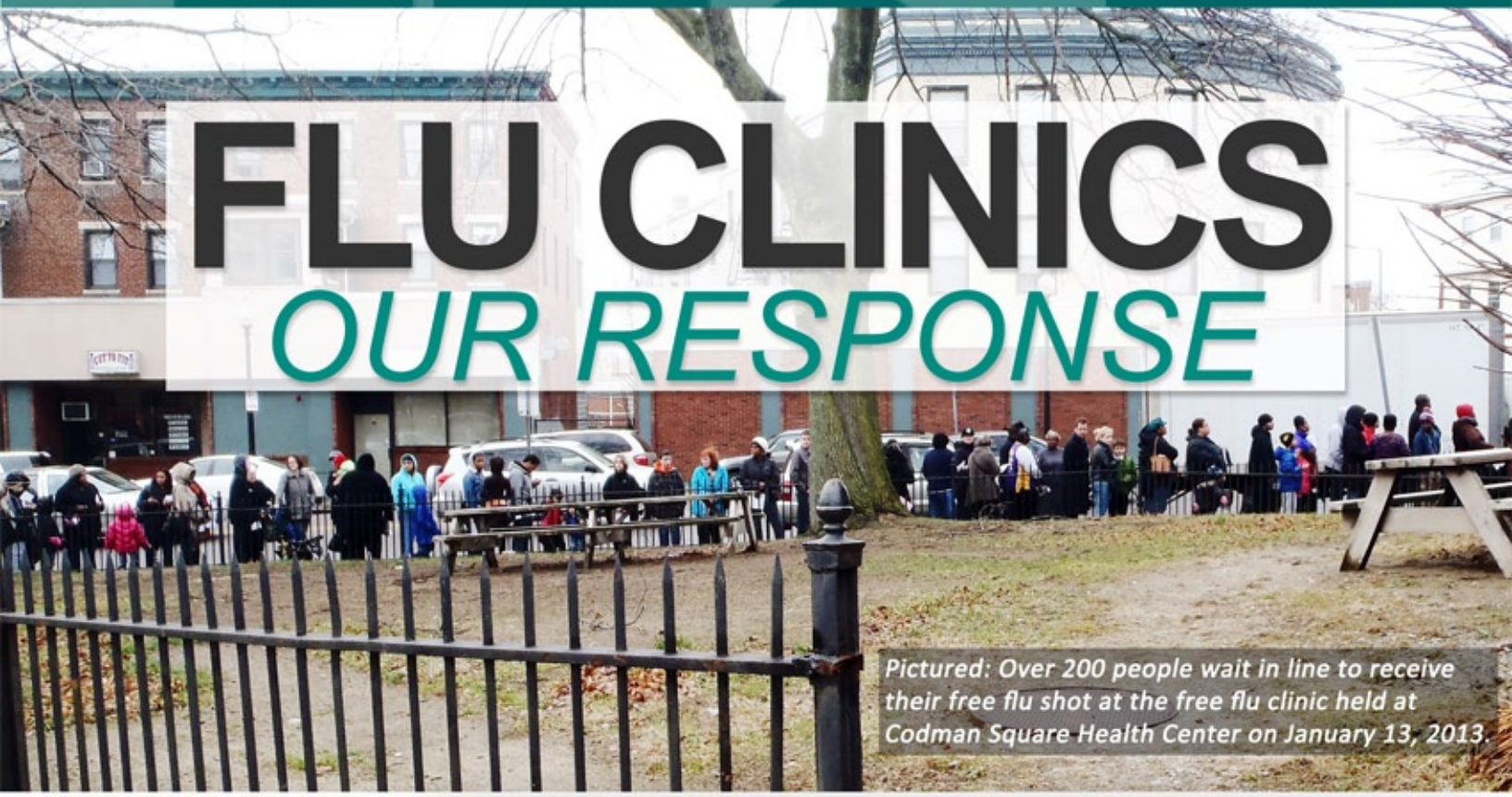
Codman Square Health Center
Connection
Winter 2013

FLU CLINICS
OUR RESPONSE



Pictured: Over 200 people wait in line to receive their free flu shot at the free flu clinic held at Codman Square Health Center on January 13, 2013.

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In the beginning of January, with the flu season in mid-swing, Mayor Menino declared a public health emergency for the City of Boston, as Massachusetts had been seeing the highest influenza rates since the swine flu outbreak of 2009. In Boston, incident rates of flu this fall were 10 times higher than they were last year, with 700 cases of the flu virus compared to only 70 last year. In response, Codman Square Health Center joined alongside health centers across the city to offer free flu clinics and open doors to walk-in patients. On the weekend following the Mayor's announcement, over 7,000 people were vaccinated throughout Boston including 460 individuals here at CSHC.

The Free Flu Clinic the Health Center ran on January 13 had over 200 people waiting in line in anticipation for their flu shot. Seven additional flu clinics have been hosted by Codman throughout this flu season, and efforts have been made to vaccinate as many Health Center employees as possible and to provide flu vaccinations to Codman Academy, the resident high school inside the Health Center. In total, at the end of January, Codman had given out 5,332 flu vaccines to individuals this flu season.

More than 11,000 patients have tested positive for the flu in Massachusetts this season, according to the latest statistics from mid-January. About 20 people have died from the flu so far in the state.

If you have still not received your flu shot, it's not too late to be vaccinated. Walk-in flu shots are still available here at Codman Square Health Center.

LEVEL 3 PATIENT-CENTERED MEDICAL HOME

We are proud to report that Codman Square Health Center (CSHC) was recognized as a Level 3 Patient-Centered Medical Home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

The Medical Home Initiative is a national movement working to transform the way primary care is delivered in order to improve the quality of healthcare, access to healthcare, and to control healthcare costs. Though many of the ideas behind the Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) are not new, implementing them successfully can transform the quality of care and the patient experience. The NCQA recognizes healthcare institutions who successively demonstrate the qualities of a medical home.

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The level of recognition that a practice receives is dependent on the degree to which specific elements are met. Level 3 is the highest level available – meaning that CSHC achieved greater than 85 out of a possible 100 points on our application. This recognition affirms our health center's commitment to providing pro-active, personalized, efficient, cost-effective, quality care that works for our whole community.

For over two years CSHC has had in place a Patient-Centered Medical Home Team that has worked tirelessly to prepare the staff and facilities for application to the NCQA. Though we have always had a patient-centered approach to healthcare, efforts were made on every level of patient-care to achieve the highest PCMH standards. Dr. Ethan Brackett, Family Medicine Director, and his team have worked hard over the last two years to lead the Health Center towards this recognition.

> "We are very excited to have received recognition as a Patient-Centered Medical Home. The Medical Home as a model epitomizes what community health centers are all about, providing patient-centered, personalized care that meets the needs of our patients and our community. It focuses on methods to continuously improve our services, the care that we provide, and the outcomes for patients through providing each patient with a team of staff members to help the patient meet their personal health goals. Providing access to care at times when the patient wants it, including evenings and weekends, in a way that is culturally and linguistically appropriate, is essential to this model. We think that every patient deserves a doctor who puts them and their family first while providing excellent care with the assistance of an exceptional team through partnership with the patient." -Dr. Philip Severin, Chief Medical Officer

Patient-Centered Medical Homes are set apart by their efficient care teams, constant quality improvements, evidence-based care, coordinated care, and patient-centered interactions. The presence of a Patient-Centered Medical Home in Dorchester is an invaluable resource providing access to high quality health care to a diverse population in one of Boston's biggest neighborhoods.

FREE PROFESSIONAL PORTRAITS FOR PATIENTS

"A picture is worth;" this is the motto of the international movement of photographers known as Help-Portrait. In its fourth year, Help-Portrait is a non-profit that organizes a day to be set aside in the beginning of December to provide free professional portraits for individuals and families who may not normally have the access to high quality portraits. For the first time a Help-Portrait event came to Dorchester on Saturday, December 8th at the Great Hall in Codman Square. Scotland Huber, Communications and Market Manager at Codman Square Health Center, helped coordinate the event in order to provide quality portraits to a neighborhood void of many photography studios.

Over 60 people were photographed throughout a 4 hour period of walk-in services. Professional photographers from Boston setup two fully functioning studios, and with the support of Northeastern University and Calumet Photo Boston, a professional printer was on hand to make 8x10 prints immediately following the photo shoots. Participants were able to have professional makeup or hair touchups before their photographs, and many elected to have digital images sent along with their print they were given at the event.

The Help-Portrait team worked with providers at Codman Square Health Center and administration at Codman Academy Charter Public School to reach out to families in the Codman Square neighborhood and make them aware of this great opportunity. For more information on Help-Portrait visit www.help-portrait.com.

DENTAL DIRECTOR RECEIVES APPOINTMENT TO BU

This past December our very own Matthew Horan, DMD, Dental Director at Codman Square Health Center, was appointed to an official faculty position at Boston University School of Dental Medicine (BUSDM). In his new capacity Dr. Horan will teach BUSDM students assigned to 10 week clinical rotations at our dental clinic. These students serve as a valuable resource to Codman Square Health Center by expanding access for our patients. In addition, Dr. Horan's experience teaching and guiding students will allow him to become exposed to new teaching methods and outcomes of other doctors as well as continual challenges through the questions of his students.

Dr. Horan is excited about this opportunity and how it will continue to strengthen the dental clinic here at Codman. "As a faculty member, in addition to the shared knowledge from students and my peers, I hope to continue to expand my healthcare network with the goal of being better equipped to work towards meaningful change in our dental health safety net," stated Dr. Horan. Codman Square Health Center is proud to have leaders and providers like Dr. Horan who are constantly seeking ways to improve the care we provide to our patients.

FIRST ANNUAL *VALENTINA SERVICE AWARD* PRESENTED

On Saturday evening December 8th at the annual Codman Square Health Center Staff Holiday Party the first Valentina Service Awards were given out to two recepients. The first and second place award recipients were given either a cash prize of $2,500 (first place) or a week's worth of vacation time (second place). The Health Center was proud to award Chavalette Harris, Registration, with the second place ward and Florence Maceus, RN in Urgent Care, with the first place award.

The Valentina Service Award (VSA or Award) was developed in honor of Valentina Michaud, the late spouse of Unique Michaud, M.D., one of Codman Square Health Center's dedicated physicians. The basic premise of this award is to recognize a CSHC staff member that exhibits some of the special qualities that were embodied by Mrs. Michaud. Valentina was always encouraging her love ones to be strong and serve others. She was a woman known to seek out the good in all of humanity. Valentina personified faith, strength, leadership, honesty and humility.

Unique Michaud and his family were at the event to present the first awards to Florence and Chavalette in honor of Dr. Michaud's late wife Valentina Michaud. The Health Center is so honored and thankful for Florence and Chavalette's commitment and service to the Codman Square Health Center community.

Pictured: (top image) Dr. Philip Severin, CMO, Chavalette Harris, Florence Maceus, RN, Gabriel Vonleh, COO and James Michaud. (bottom left) Sandra Cotterell, CEO, Florence Maceus, RN, Gabriel Vonleh, COO, and Sabienne Maceus. (bottom right) Jo-Ann Winbush and Chavalette

CODMAN DENTIST LEADS HEALTH TRIP TO NEPAL

Pictured: Dr. Ganga Subedi-Pahari in Kaski, Nepal

A One-Day Dental Health Camp was organized in the rural village of Kaski, a small town in the western part of Nepal. This One-Day Dental Health Camp was led by Dr. Ganga Subedi-Pahari, Dental Provider here at Codman Square Health Center. The camp aimed to provide dental services and dental hygiene instruction to local residents in Nepal who normally have no such resources.

Mainly young children were treated during the camp, however some adults also benefited from the services provided. In total 350 individuals received dental services or education throughout the day camp. The people living in these areas of Nepal do not own toothbrushes or paste; therefore samples were handed out to the children and adults. Codman also donated most of the dental instruments used during the camp.

CAPS FOR KIDS, HATS THAT WARM TWICE

Since 2000, Caps For Kids has been providing handmade hats and other warm clothing items to the Pediatric Department at Codman Square Health Center. These handmade items are collected from knitters across the nation to help provide children in need in the Boston area with something warm to wear during the winter months. Health Center staff, inspired by Caps for Kids over the years, have begun their own knitting group that helps donate additional hats to those given away each year at Codman.

What began with a 100 knit hat donation to Codman in the year 2000 has grown to 150 hat donations a year and has expanded to include a variety of afghans, mittens, gloves, scarves and slippers. The hats supplied by Caps for Kids have helped to give young Codman patients something special to wear when it gets cold outside. The personal touch of the handmade hats helps build the sense of care that is center to the Codman mission. Dr. Fuchsia Mitchell, one of Codman's Pediatric Providers, loves being able to provide such nice items to her patients as a gift during the cold holiday season, "The hats are so cute. It is such a thoughtful gift. Our patients are going to be so happy."

"Our hats warm twice; they warm the heads those who receive them, and the hearts of those who give them."
–Joan Casby, Brigham and Women's Hospital

The idea for Caps for Kids began in 1984 in California with the simple thought to provide handmade hats to children in need. It quickly spread to Boston, where the organization has grown through the partnered efforts of Dana Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women's Hospital which joined forces in 1999. Through their combined efforts Caps for Kids has donated 43,569 handmade items to Boston children, including over 10,000 items in 2011. Joan Casby, one of the champions of Caps for Kids, anticipates that they will at the very least match that number this year, if not exceed it. Caps for Kids is run entirely by volunteers, with over 300 people across the nation knitting, crocheting, and sewing to provide hats to help keep children a little warmer in the winter. Every December the handmade hats and additional items are distributed to over 40 organizations in Boston including Codman Square Health Center.

FREE TAX CLINICS RETURN TO CODMAN SQUARE

Tax season is back! Once again in partnership with the Boston Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition and DotWell, Codman Square Health Center is offering free tax preparation clinics to the public. Eligible individuals/families must have made less than $50,000 during 2012. Tax clinics will be run at the Codman Square Tech Center, 450 Washington St, Dorchester, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4-8pm and Saturdays from 9am-1pm beginning in mid-January through mid-April. It is important to note that individuals should arrive at the start of the clinic in order to have their taxes prepared. No appointments accepted, and the clinics are first-come, first-serve.

In addition to having your taxes prepared for free, you can access additional asset building services such as opening a bank account, assistance with completing a FAFSA, and viewing your credit report and score. Build your financial future and take advantage of these tax time financial health services!

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