

# Training future community medicine providers

## Residencies, fellowships help Access patients get the best care

Why would a community health center be involved with training health care students and residents?

Having students and residents at Access clinics helps us to offer patients a broader scope of care and the latest medical and dental innovations. In exchange, students that train at Access learn what it is like to practice at a community health center, preparing many for a future of working with our patients.



Access works with a variety of programs, from 3-year physician residencies, to month-long rotations, to shadowing our providers for an afternoon. Students come to Access from University of Wisconsin health profession programs, the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, as well as from Madison College.

"Being part of clinic training programs offers students a first-hand perspective on working with

individuals who often have limited resources and complicated life circumstances," said Access CEO Dr. Ken Loving.

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## BY THE numbers

# 746

Number of guests to our 2014 Celebration of Service Dinner

# 32

Number of sponsors of our 2015 Celebration of Service Dinner

# 105

(and counting)

Number of donors of our 2015 Celebration of Service Dinner



## Event supports Access' work

Access Community Health Centers annual *Celebration of Service* dinner is more than just another charity dinner. This event, held each spring since 1999, gathers a broad and diverse community of supporters to celebrate their commitment to the people we serve every day.

Access counts on a wide range of support from many organizations and individuals. This support makes sure that our community has access to affordable, quality medical, dental and behavioral health services, as well as pharmacy services and community resources.

The dinner draws more than 700 people, and remains our largest fund raiser of the year. Money raised from the event goes to direct patient care for the more than 26,000 people who call Access their health care home.

This year's Celebration of Service will be held April 9 at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center. You're invited to join us. Purchase single or group tickets from our website: [accesscommunityhealthcenters.org](http://accesscommunityhealthcenters.org), or by calling Julia O'Donnel at 608/443-5602.

## Donor Profile

### BMO Harris: Committed Corporate Neighbor

Building a strong community is a group effort. That's why Access Community Health Centers is fortunate to have committed corporate neighbors like BMO Harris Bank among its partners. It is the support of BMO Harris Bank that makes it possible for us to continue our work building a strong and healthy community.

BMO Harris Bank is a longtime supporter of Access, helping fund a number of significant initiatives including the construction of our Joyce & Marshall Erdman clinic on South Park Street and, most recently, our Celebrate Smiles children's dental program. This support is part of the bank's commitment to improving the quality of life for the customers and communities it serves.

"We all share a responsibility for creating strong communities because no one person or organization can do it alone – it's why we decided to come together to further our commitment to Dane and Iowa counties and support Access in their commitment to provide outstanding, affordable health care for the people who need it most," said John Ronzia, BMO Harris Bank's Regional Senior Vice President, Business Banking. Ronzia calls Celebrate Smiles a "true symbol of community outreach" that gets kids essential dental care at an early age, helping to establish a lifetime of good health.

Access is one of more than 100 non-profits that BMO Harris Bank supports in the Madison region, including a broad range of initiatives in education, health and human services, arts and culture, economic development, and affordable housing.

"Our relationship with Access is an example of a partnership that works. Proving affordable, accessible healthcare is a national issue, and locally, Access is a stellar example of best practices in community healthcare. They do an excellent job of taking care of our neighbors who need a helping hand," said Ronzia.

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Here's a closer look at some of these training programs:

**The Wingra Family Medical Center** was the University of Wisconsin Department of Family Medicine's first residency training clinic in Madison. The residency training program began in 1970. Since that time, the Department of Family Medicine has graduated more than 1,000 family practice physicians. The majority of these physicians have remained in Wisconsin and many work at community health centers across the state. Access affiliated with The Department of Family Medicine in 2009. Patients at Wingra are treated by resident doctors overseen by faculty doctors at the clinic. Resident physicians spend three years at Wingra learning the skills and role of a family practice physician.

"Residents in our program really want to work with underserved and diverse populations," says Kirsten Rindfleisch, MD, Medical Director at Wingra. "Our patients are a broad reflection of the community we serve."



After graduating from Harvard Medical School, Jonathan Takahashi started his family medicine residency at Wingra. In his third year, Takahashi serves as Wingra's chief resident.

"I knew that I wanted to train, and ultimately work, in a community health center setting. The mission of a community health center fits with why I went into medicine," Takahashi explained.

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In addition, Wingra residents are encouraged to create a Community Medicine Project during their time at the clinic. Takahashi is starting a integrated medicine class, "Stretch, Breathe, Relax," which brings basic yoga, meditation and relaxation techniques into patient care to help lessen stress-related medical conditions.

**Access' Behavioral Health Program** offers a variety of training options. Doctoral fellows, interns and students from psychology and social work training programs are routinely found working with our care teams. In addition, medical residents and students from other health professions programs shadow Access' behavioral health consultants to learn more about how to work as a team in the primary care setting.

These programs offer psychology and social work students the opportunity to train with the emerging integrated primary care behavioral health model, and gain experience working with primary care doctors as Behavioral Health Consultants. With this model, pioneered by doctors working at Access' clinics, patients can get quality care for mental health needs during their regular doctor's visit.

"Students often offer a fresh perspective and have great knowledge of current trends and practices within the field from classes they may be taking concurrently," said Access Behavioral Health Consultant Meghan Fondow, PhD, Psychologist. "Students contribute to the diversity of the team and increase our ability to meet patient needs."

Fellows and residents learn how to meet the changing demands in health care and to serve diverse populations with complex needs.

"My lifelong mission is to provide quality, culturally-informed, and accessible care to traditionally underserved populations, which is also Access's mission," said Lucia Stubbs, a post doc training with Access' BHC program. "Access is helping to produce mental health providers that can use their training to better overall primary healthcare practice."

Many of our fellows and residents choose to pursue careers in primary care, according to Fondow.

Pediatric residents at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals & Clinics participate at Access in a variety of ways. The Joyce and Marshall Erdman Clinic currently has four pediatric residents doing their three-year **Continuity Clinic**. Additionally, all pediatric residents in that program come through the same clinic during their month-long Community Pediatrics & Advocacy Experience.

Christina Beaird, MD, a second year resident working with Access pediatrician

Dipesh Navsaria, MD, said having the continuity clinic opportunity at Access clinics drew her to the University of Wisconsin residency program. "Access serves a population that usually doesn't get a lot of health care resources. These are the patients I want to work with." Navsaria, who also trained as a pediatric resident at Access, understands the importance of continuing to educate residents in a community health center.

"So many mainstream clinics and hospitals don't necessarily address the unique needs of populations that are living with adversity. If we don't teach the learners how to think about those things then we're doing them and our society a disservice. It's about recognizing that these things that are often brushed off as social issues are our problems as well," Navsaria said.

