

The Compassionate Health Center Fund

The Compassionate Health Center began in 2009 and focused on helping patients who suffer from Hypertension and Diabetes. The Fulton County (FC) Compassionate Health Center Executive Director, Leanne Schaller, described the organization as “hometown people taking care of hometown people.”

In order to benefit from the services that Compassionate Health Center offers, patients are required to prove that they are in financial and medical need, and the clinic then provides them with the appropriate medical attention they deserve.

In the year 2010 alone, the FC Compassionate Health Center had over 1,300 patients. Without the Compassionate Health Center, these patients may not have otherwise gotten the medical attention they needed.

In order for the Center to operate annually, it requires \$60,000 in operating costs. The Community Foundation provides this worthy organization with a significant amount of financial assistance through grants and donations. In 2011, the Women's Giving Circle provided the Health Center with the grant money to buy diabetic testing strips. “The Women's Giving Circle is huge for us,” Schaller said.

The Compassionate Health Center was also able to purchase shelves, a copier, a printer, a computer, and were able to obtain the initial start-up costs with help from the Community Foundation. Schaller encouraged others by saying, “Grant writing is not that challenging. It's really user-friendly.”

Woodlawn Hospital in Fulton County has also been a large participant in aiding the Health Center. Patients of the Compassionate Health Center are able to receive x-rays and lab work at no cost, as well as other services that the hospital provides. “Without the hospital we wouldn't be here,” Schaller said.

The Center is not only providing its patients with immediate care, but it also provides them with life-long knowledge that will help them to stay healthy. Due to a grant, the Health Center was able to start a wellness project in which 10 patients exercised at Fulton County's local gym 3 times a week and were also given advice on how to eat healthy. One of the participating individuals lost 35 pounds and saw tremendous health benefits.



Nancy Day and Mary Lipsett present Jay Albright the current executive director of the Compassionate Health Center with a grant for \$3,639 from the Brent L. Blacketor Memorial Fund. Photo courtesy of Mike Kenny and the Rochester Sentinel. -- 2012

“I would like to serve more people,” Schaller said about the future of the center. “It is estimated around 30% of our county [Fulton] is without health insurance.”

The Compassionate Health Center is illustrating philanthropy at its finest by providing a large and continuous positive impact on the community of Fulton County.