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Bipartisan Support for Community Health Centers

A team of Mountain Family Health Centers leadership and staff met with members of Congress earlier this year as part of an annual gathering of health center representatives in Washington, D.C. Chief Financial Officer Annette Franta attended with the Mountain Family delegation and noted strong bipartisan support among Colorado's U.S. representatives and senators for community health centers.

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UPDATE FROM OUR BASALT CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
We've Reached \$1.7 Million

Mountain Family Health Centers has raised \$1.7 million during our final fundraising effort to support the new Basalt Integrated Health Center. Mountain Family is raising \$3.2 million during our fundraising homestretch for the new health center, located at [123 Emma Road](#).

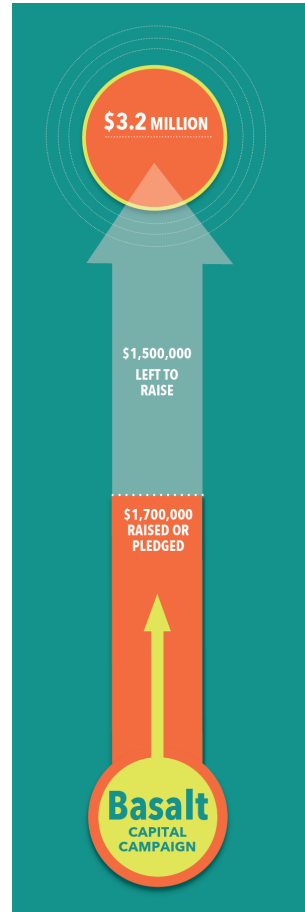
Recent support includes a generous \$100,000 grant from the Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation, designated for medical equipment for the nine medical exam rooms at the new Basalt Integrated Health Center.

"At Mountain Family Health Centers, we believe health care is a basic human right. The support of the Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation, along with that of our other generous supporters, will help ensure that all members of our community have access to high quality, integrated care," said Ross Brooks, Mountain Family's Chief Executive Officer.

The Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation is based in Michigan and is dedicated to transforming lives in profoundly positive ways through grants focused on health, youth and family and animal welfare. "Improving health care access and outcomes for vulnerable people is one of our priorities," says Virginia Romano, Executive Director, "we are pleased to support Mountain Family Health Centers as they work toward this same goal."

The Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation joins other lead donors for the new health center: The Colorado Health Foundation, Denver Foundation Colorado Health Access Fund, Aspen Skiing Company - Community Cares Fund, Caring for Colorado Foundation, Gates Family Foundation, El Pomar Foundation, Robert Pew, as well as generous support from Aspen Valley Hospital, Pitkin County, the Alpenglow Foundation, Eagle County, the Rose Foundation, the Betty Jane Schuss and Donor Advised Funds at the Aspen Community Foundation, The Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment, the Town of Snowmass Village, the Aspen Thrift Shop, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and others.

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MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Take Steps to Improve or Maintain Good Behavioral Health

By Oyen Hoffman, Clinical Specialist & Substance Abuse Supervisor

Mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being, and mental illnesses are common and treatable. So much of what we do physically impacts us mentally. It's important to pay attention to both your physical health and your mental health, also called behavioral health, which can help you achieve overall wellness and set you on a path to recovery.

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LEARNING MORE ABOUT AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER BEHAVIORS

Diane Purse and Corrinne Johnson Receive Additional Training

By Diane Purse, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

Autism spectrum disorder occurs in 1 in 59 children in our country, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Autism Speaks is an online resource center for parents and providers and lists the following behavior as visible as early as 1 year of age: no babbling or back-and-forth gestures such as pointing, waving or eye contact. At the age of 2 years, a child with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) may show no significant increase in number of words spoken or a lack of communication skills.

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CELEBRATING NATALY MERAZ AND KAREN TORRES Nominated for Nightingale Luminary Awards

Mountain Family Health Centers would like to congratulate Nataly Meraz, RN, Basalt Clinic Nurse Facilitator, and Karen Torres, RN, Rifle Clinic Nurse Facilitator, for being nominated for the 2019 Colorado Nightingale Luminary Awards. Nataly, Karen, and other Mountain Family representatives attended a regional recognition dinner in Grand Junction earlier this year. Dr. Matt Percy wrote a short appreciation for Karen and Nataly's hard work.



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GOODBYE, TRACIE WALTERSCHEID Thank You for Providing Excellent Care

By Dr. Anneliese Heckert, DO, Basalt Site Medical Director

Mountain Family Health wants to wish Tracie Walterscheid, PA-C, the best of luck on her new endeavor practicing a little closer to home in Aspen. Tracie joined Mountain Family Health Centers in August 2016 and helped serve Basalt's patients with high quality, compassionate, comprehensive medical care. It has been a pleasure working with Tracie daily and we will miss her greatly.



"We are so grateful for how tirelessly Tracie has worked to take care of our patients over the last nearly 3 years. She has consistently provided exceptional care and gone the extra mile, spending as much time with patients as they need, researching complex cases, consulting with specialists and writing exceptional notes. We are grateful for who she is as a person and a provider. Hers will be some big shoes to fill!" - Emily Borkovec, PA-C

WHAT WE'RE READING Hot Topics In Health Care

We enjoyed a recent write-up by the Commonwealth Fund about the positive impact of Medicaid expansion. Here's an excerpt: "Health centers in Medicaid expansion states, compared to those in nonexpansion (sic) states, were significantly more likely to report improvements in their financial stability (69% vs. 41%) and in their ability to provide affordable care to patients (76% vs. 52%) since the ACA took effect. They have also been somewhat more likely to operate under a value-based payment model, like the patient-centered medical home." [Click here to read the full report.](#)



Colorado legislators passed several health care bills this year, including more than one effort to reduce the cost of insurance premiums. [Click here to read an excellent piece by the Colorado Sun](#) on what passed and how each measure is supposed to benefit Coloradans. (Click on "Health Care" a little ways down the page in order to jump to that section.)

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MAY 2019 MARIPOSA AWARD Congratulations to Scott Owens

Congratulations to Scott Owens for winning the May 2019 Mariposa Award. Scott is Chief Workforce Officer for Mountain Family Health Centers and was nominated by Chief Executive Officer Ross Brooks, Director of Integrated Care Dr. Anneliese Heckert, and Director of Clinical Staff Dr. Matt Percy.



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MAY 2019 EXEMPLARY CARE AWARD Oyen Hoffman Is This Month's Winner

Behavioral Health Provider Oyen Hoffman is the winner of the May 2019 Exemplary Care Award. Oyen is a Clinical Specialist and Substance Abuse Supervisor and was nominated by Director of Integrated Care Dr. Anneliese Heckert. Also nominated were Dr. Gail Mizner, MD, Corrinne Johnson, PA, and Behavioral Health Provider Barbra Corcoran, MSW.

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