

Bridges To Access



COLUMBIA COUNTY COMMUNITY
HEALTH CARE CONSORTIUM, INC.

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Bridges To Access

In rural communities, there is often a veritable chasm between health care needs and access to services. When a local organization can play a role in bridging that gap, the people and the economic viability of the community are enhanced.

Since 1998 the Columbia County Community Health Care Consortium, Inc. has been fulfilling its stated mission to increase access to quality health care through collaboration, education, information and service delivery.

While needs, trends and technologies in the health care environment may fluctuate and change, our values remain constant and steady. These values are at the core of what we do and why we do them:

- ✓ Access to quality health care is a fundamental right of every individual.
- ✓ Improving the health of our community occurs through the partnership of health, social service, wellness organizations and all levels of government.
- ✓ Individuals are primarily responsible for their own health care decisions and require information and education to fulfill their role effectively.
- ✓ Collaboration and provision of preventive and wellness services has long term efficiencies.



Likewise, our vision for the future is grounded in realities we believe we can play an integral role in shaping.

- ✓ Health care consumers will be well informed.
- ✓ Low income/uninsured/underinsured individuals will have equal access to primary care, dental and vision services.
- ✓ Transportation to health care services will be accessible to all residents.
- ✓ Health outcomes will make significant progress toward the Healthy People 2015 goals.
- ✓ Health care consumers will have better access to having prescriptions filled and utilized appropriately.

As we move into our 10th year of providing access to health care services in our community, we will continue to strive to address emerging health care needs and ensure access to care of all of our residents.



Our 2007 Board of Directors

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Mental Health Association of Columbia & Greene Counties

VICE PRESIDENT

Anne Zittell, Retired Public Health Nurse
Consumer Advocate

TREASURER

Kenneth Stall, Chief Executive Officer
COARC

SECRETARY

Agnes Donlon, Executive Director
Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties

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Gail Grandinetti, 1st Ward Supervisor *Columbia County Board of Supervisors*

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Rev James Slater, Pastor, St. Luke's Church *Ichabod Crane Clergy Association*

Norma Shook, Medical Assistance Specialist *NYS Office of Managed Care*

Tina Gardner, Physician Liaison *Open MRI of Hudson*

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Beth Schuster, Executive Director *Twin County Recovery Services*

Gretchen Brown, Program Coordinator *Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood*

Arthur Koweek, Business Representative

Dr Stephen Krizar, MD *Physician Representative*

Dr Bernard Mehl, DPS *Pharmacy Representative*

Dr William Murphy, MD *Physician Representative*

James Beal, At-Large Director

View from the Top



It is hard to believe that two years will have passed since I became president of the Consortium. I continue to be enthused by the network mission, as well as the dedication and focused energy of the Board of Directors and staff. I am proud to be working alongside a group of volunteer board members that give so much of their time and expertise, that are so caring and hard working. What is particularly impressive is the sense of shared vision and camaraderie that is evident both at board meetings and when one stops by the office and observes the staff interactions in the conference area. One can sense the commitment and excitement of staff when hearing a presentation about their respective program responsibilities.

Not surprisingly this past year has been a time of productivity and expansion as the Consortium continues to bridge service gaps to better meet the needs of the community. There has been expansion of the Cancer Screening Program. Long Term Care Insurance Education for groups and individual counseling is now available. The mobile dental services van has been successfully transferred to Columbia Memorial Hospital in coordination with Greene County. The agency was awarded one of the two NYSDOH grants with an emphasis on issues related to child obesity. We look forward to implementing Integrated Cancer Services this coming Spring. And, as always, on-going services have been successfully delivered for yet another year.

Finally, on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I want to acknowledge the wonderful work of its top executive. She is the glue that keeps the organization together and operating smoothly. Her work habits, grant writing ability, leadership skills, and commitment to the mission of the organization is second to none. Diane Franzman, thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey Rovitz'. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with a large, sweeping flourish on the right side.

Jeffrey Rovitz, MS, CRC, LMHC
President

Our 2007 Staff

Diane Franzman *Executive Director*
Gina Armstrong *Deputy Director*
George Atkinson *Driver*
June Blake *Project Coordinator*
Darcy Connor *Program Coordinator*
Karen dePeyster *Program Director*
Inez Dickens *Project Coordinator*
Rachel Dobert *Enrollment Counselor*
Roger Dooley *Driver*
Richard Fenoff *Transportation Dispatcher*
Betty Foss *Executive Assistant*
Jacqueline Goddeau *Senior Program Coordinator*
Ruth Gutman *Community Advocate*
Marian Hannah *Receptionist*
Lawrence Hermance *Driver*
Kathy Houston *Senior Data Manager*
David Kibler *Driver*
Paul Knott *Transportation Dispatcher*
Robert La Casse *Driver*
Gwen Lacigtignola *Program Coordinator*
Letty Malin *Program Coordinator*
Roger Marvin *Driver*
Victoria McGlynn *Enrollment Counselor*
Eleanor Minsky *Program Coordinator*
Stephanie Nedwick *Program Assistant*
Anna Passaro *Enrollment Advocate*
Margo Potrzeba *Program Coordinator*
Kristin Provost *Enrollment Counselor*
Maureen Romanyszyn *Financial Consultant*
Joseph Salvatore *Driver*
Sherry Salvatore *Transportation Coordinator*
Crystal Stringham *Communications Coordinator*
Lisa Thomas *Senior Program Director*
Robert Usis *Senior Communications Director*
James Van Deusen *Driver*
Nancy Weaver *Fiscal Specialist*



Executive Director's Perspective



It seems very appropriate that the theme of our annual report this year is “Bridges to Access”. The Healthcare Consortium has been building bridges since our inception. Using the building blocks of partnerships, collaborations, volunteers, the faith community, businesses, medical providers, county agencies, government officials, and concerned individuals, we have built structures designed to allow people to cross obstacles that prevent access to quality health care.

While the building blocks are the material that support the bridge, it is the Healthcare Consortium’s Board of Directors and the incredible staff of the organization, that have actually built these bridges. They work tirelessly to ensure that each individual in our community will have access to the care they need.

This year our newest bridge brought us to our local school districts providing the means by which each school district can address issues around childhood obesity. Through a five year grant program we hope to provide opportunities for children to live healthier, active lives.

As the years pass, we know that there are many more bridges to be built. The continued support of the community, our funders and our elected officials, will help us continue our efforts.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane C. Franzman".

Diane C. Franzman
Executive Director

Our Programs

The **Healthcare Consortium Medical Transportation Service** continues to be a critical service to Columbia County residents. In 2007 the program transported 557 clients, logging in excess of over 121,830 miles, on 7,373 trips to and from health-related appointments in and out of the county. This has become the premiere no-cost medical transportation program in Columbia County.



Health insurance for individuals and families is a critical issue everywhere in the country. Eligibility screenings and application assistance for Columbia and Greene residents to get *Child Health Plus*, *Family Health Plus* and *Medicaid* through the **Covering the Uninsured** program helps more people access affordable New York State health insurance for children, families and individuals. In Columbia and Greene counties, there were 1938 referrals to the program in 2007, a 5% increase from the year before. 683 single- and multi-person applications were submitted, which was a 6% bump over 2006. The 1059 adult and child enrollments in 2007 topped 2006 by 7.25%. Most important, 99% of the 805 children who applied were enrolled. Since 2003, more than 5500 residents in Columbia and Greene counties have been enrolled in these New York State health insurance plans through our Facilitated Enrollment Program.



Long-term care insurance means different things to different people. Protecting assets, covering future nursing and care costs, or both, the **Long Term Care Insurance Education and Outreach** is educating residents about what it is and what may work best for them. In 2007, 392 residents received a much broader understanding of long-term care insurance via group presentations and one-on-one counseling.



The **Cancer Services Division** of The Healthcare Consortium now offers cancer screenings, support and education. Increased funding allows for more comprehensive services for local residents.

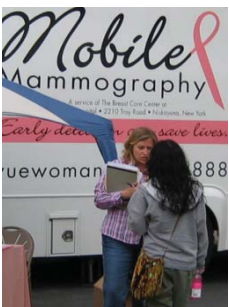


Our **Cancer Support Program** in the twin counties has grown from publication and distribution of over 500 cancer services directories to peer-to-peer networking and active cancer support groups for individuals and families affected by cancer. One of the most vibrant of these groups is the Teen Warriors, a weekly teen support group in Hudson for kids affected by cancer, whose activities have included starting a garden and creative photography projects. The Community Cancer Fund raised over \$6500 through the efforts of solicitors and contributions from the community.

Curing cancer is an aspiration we all hope medical science can achieve. In the meantime, early detection will be the number one way to save lives. The **Columbia County Healthy Women Partnership** has consistently met and surpassed their target numbers, providing free breast and cervical screenings to eligible women in Columbia County. In 2007, 763 services were performed in either clinical settings or aboard the mobile mammography van from Bellevue Women's Hospital.



One of our most recent start-up programs was the new **Colorectal Cancer Screening & Prostate Cancer Education** Initiative. With an emphasis on getting more men and women age 50 and older screened for colon cancer, the Fecal Immunochemical Tests (FIT) is an easy-to-use, at-home test that has been distributed to 50 uninsured adults so far. Five high risk residents received screening colonoscopies and one received a diagnostic colonoscopy.



The **Ovarian Cancer Awareness and Education Initiative** has been opening eyes recently. Breaking medical news concerning early warning symptoms last summer has sparked keen interest in Ovarian Cancer. As a result, our educator has been speaking to even greater numbers of doctors and residents in Columbia and Greene counties than in past years.

Everywhere you look there's an overabundance of tobacco advertising. The [Rip Van Winkle Tobacco-Free Coalition](#) is working to change that. Partnering with local parent, school and community groups to reduce tobacco product visibility within one mile of any school the Coalition has removed 90% of outside tobacco advertising in Germantown. This model will be used to replicate these results in all the school districts in Columbia and Greene counties. RVWTFC has worked hand-in-hand with the Board of Health to make entryways to county buildings smoke free in 2007 and helped local groups implement smoking restrictions in their work places. Current anti-tobacco information is distributed quarterly via 10,000 *Clear the Air* newsletters.



Diabetes in New York State has been diagnosed in more than one million people. Nearly one half million more are undiagnosed. These numbers indicate a growing problem. The time for more education about diabetes is right now. Through monthly education and support meetings, professional education sessions, and bi-annual foot screenings, the attendance at [Columbia-Greene Diabetes Coalition](#) meetings and events has doubled over last year.



The [Columbia County Partnership for Children's Dental Health](#) continues to provide oral education to elementary school children. In 2007 dental screenings were given to 231 third graders. Of that number, 131 received cleanings, 98 had fluoride treatments, and 242 protective sealants were applied. The Mobile Health Van has been completely outfitted as two dental examination rooms and ownership has been transferred to Columbia Memorial Hospital. CMH will use the van to provide services in the twin counties in 2008.



Since its inception, the [Prescription Access Assistance](#) program has helped hundreds of Columbia County residents apply for low- or no-cost medications from participating pharmaceutical companies. Coupled with funding from the Foundation for Community Health serving Ancram and Copake townships, this countywide program served 221 clients, who received 909 prescription medications in 2007.

“In just two decades, the prevalence of overweight doubled for U.S. children ages 6 to 11 — and tripled for American teenagers.”

Source: Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research



Childhood overweight and obesity is a priority health issue. The Healthcare Consortium was 1 of only 2 organizations awarded a five-year **Prevention and Education** grant from NYS DOH to help our local children establish a healthy lifestyle. This initiative will promote healthy eating with physical activity that equate to overall wellness and maintaining healthy body weight. Since October 2007, five of the six Columbia County school districts have signed on to implement non-competitive before and after-school physical activity programs.

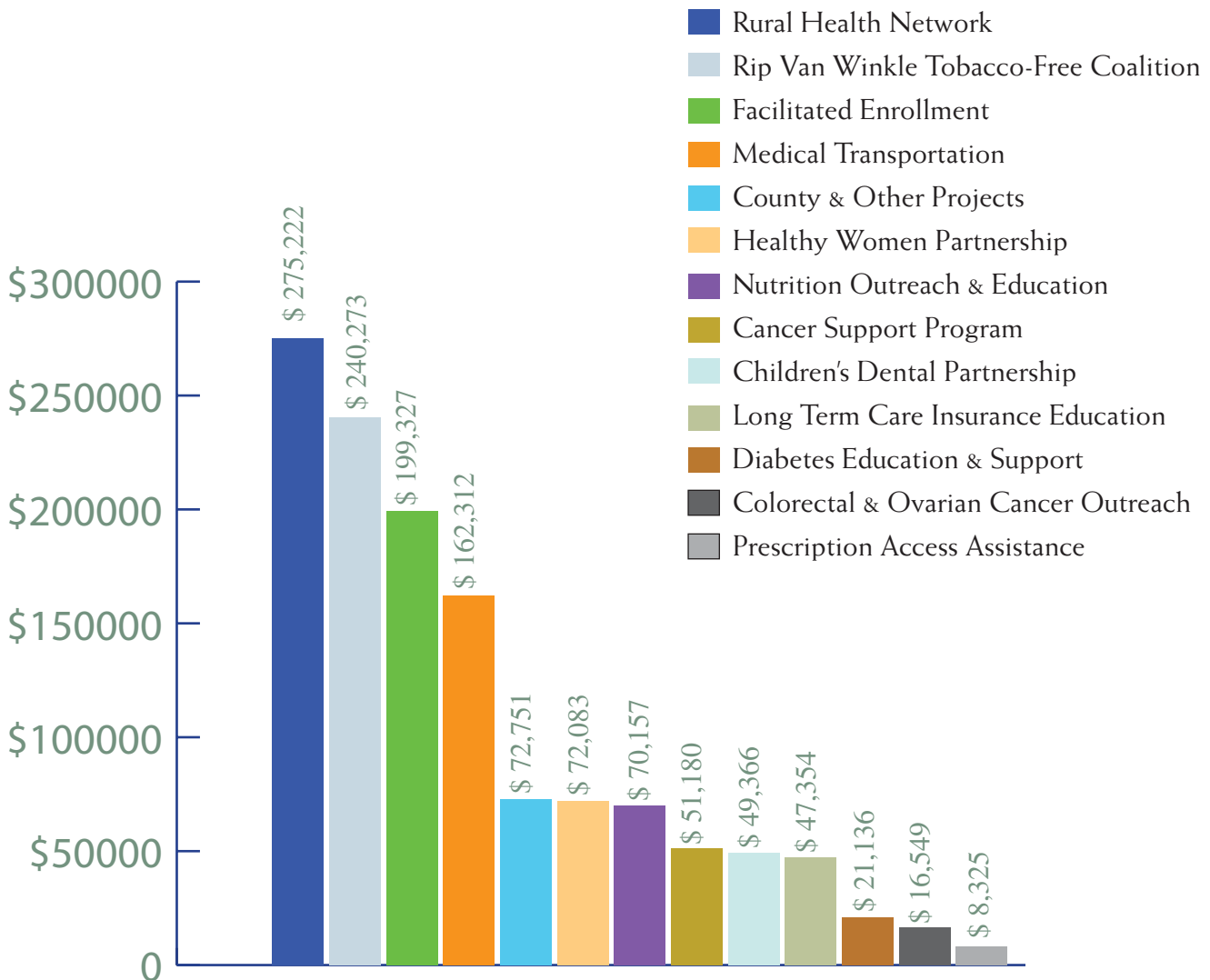
The health education **Speakers Bureau** coordinates professional presentations on a wide variety of health topics to large and small groups, schools, social and fraternal organizations. Subjects covered recently included Stress Management, Smoking Cessation, Long-Term Care Insurance, Lyme Disease and Diabetes Management.

Visitors to our website – www.columbiahealthnet.org – were greeted with a new look near the close of 2007. An average of 46,000 page requests per quarter in 2007 was 3.5% better than 2006.



Food Stamps Benefit applications were approved for 151 households in Columbia County, and another 172 in Greene County. The **Nutrition Outreach and Education Program** reached the goals set by the Nutrition Consortium of New York State, the funding source. The grant year ended on June 30, 2007 and we deferred application for a new 3- year grant to a network member organization.

Revenues



The combined resources of the Healthcare Consortium, including public and private donations, equalled \$1,286,035 for the period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

"The combined resources of our grant funding, public and private donations, and fundraising activities allow us to provide access to services that otherwise might not be available to the residents of Columbia and Greene counties."

Statement of Financial Position

Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2007

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	105,458
Grants receivable		209,667
Prepaid Expenses		312
Total Current Assets		<u>315,437</u>

Property, Plant, and Equipment Net of Accumulated depreciation		80,411
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Total Assets	\$	<u>395,848</u>
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$	27,734
Accrued wages and benefits payable		16,739
Accrued compensated absences		17,164
Line of credit		- - -

Advanced Funding Payable		91,085
Total Current Liabilities		152,722

Net Assets		
Temporarily restricted		5,248
Unrestricted		237,878

Total Net Assets		<u>243,126</u>
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Total liabilities/net assets	\$	<u>395,848</u>
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We would like to acknowledge and thank the funding sources that make these programs possible.

New York State Department of Health

Office of Rural Health, Bureau of Chronic Disease Services
Bureau of Dental Health, Bureau of Health Risk Reduction
Bureau of Tobacco Use Prevention & Control,
Department of Social Services (Medicaid)

Columbia County Government

Columbia County Department of Health, Youth Bureau
Department of Human Services, Department of Social Services
Office for the Aging, Pine Haven Rehabilitation & Nursing Center

Senator Stephen M. Saland

Northeast Health

Health Research Institute

Sharon CT Foundation for Community Health

Fidelis Health Care

Hudson River Bank & Trust Company Foundation

Sidney and Beatrice Albert Foundation

Private Donations



THE Healthcare
Consortium

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Visit us on the Internet:

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