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Bridging the Divide
At OneWorld, all are welcome

In July, a group of more than 100 people—including OneWorld employees, family members and friends—gathered at our Livestock Exchange Building campus and stood in support of immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in our community. As an organization, we decided to host this “Bridge the Divide” event in light of our concern about immigration policies and the impact on our community as families are separated and children are left stranded.

Changes in policy highlighted in recent news will result not only in damage to the physical and mental health of these children and their families, but also in damage that will be with us for generations to come. At the event, we invited the Omaha community to not lose sight of the people who are affected by policy changes and to remember that these individuals, families and dependent children have come to the U.S. in search of a better life.

I had the pleasure of speaking to attendees along with the following community partners:

- Sen. Tony Vargas, District 7, Nebraska Legislature
- Lidia Diaz, Immigrant Legal Center
- Rosy Salazar
- Patricia Paniagua
- The Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander, Tri-Faith Initiative

Following our comments, attendees proceeded to line the bridge near the corner of 30th and L Streets. Participants held handmade signs and OneWorld’s “All Are Welcome” signs.

We want to thank everyone who joined us as we took this time to express support for our community. Like OneWorld’s founders who started a small health care clinic in a former church parsonage in South Omaha nearly 50 years ago, we at OneWorld know that we enrich our lives by welcoming those in need. We maintain our belief that it is important to stand with vulnerable and underserved populations, and we want people to know that all are welcome here—at OneWorld and in our community.

Sincerely,

Andrea Skolkin,
Chief Executive Officer of OneWorld
Save the date 2019

Sawbones vs. Jawbones (doctors vs. lawyers) softball game and fundraiser - September 15, 2019

Women’s Health Night - October 2, 2019

New dental mobile (“Fluo-Ride”) ribbon-cutting ceremony - October 3, 2019

Milagro Dinner - November 14, 2019

did you know?

OneWorld was established in 1970 as a volunteer-staffed, free clinic, and today, nearly 47,000 people call OneWorld their health care home. In 2020, OneWorld will celebrate 50 years of providing culturally respectful, quality health care with special attention to the underserved. Watch for announcements from OneWorld about 50-Year Anniversary events!

OneWorld snapshot

This summer, someone very special to OneWorld celebrated two major milestones. Sr. Mary Kay Meagher, APRN, turned 80 years old and celebrated her 60th year as a Catholic nun.

Meagher became OneWorld’s first paid executive director in 1990. At the time, OneWorld was known as the Indian Chicano Health Center. She served as the executive director until 1995, when she left to pursue missionary work in Bolivia, continuing her commitment to service that took her all over the globe, including to Thailand, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nigeria and Guatemala. She returned to Omaha and was called back to OneWorld in 2008 through a partnership with Creighton University, where she taught for a number of years in the school of medicine. Through that partnership, she spent some of her time at the clinic working within our women’s health and pediatric teams. When OneWorld launched its School-Based Health Center (SBHC) program in 2010, Mary Kay shifted her focus and became a full-time member of OneWorld’s SBHC team. She officially retired from OneWorld in 2015, but she continues to volunteer weekly at our Learning Community Center of South Omaha.

Happy birthday and congratulations, Mary Kay!
OneWorld clinicians build trust with teens, young adults

OneWorld recently opened its second Teen and Young Adult Health Center location in West Omaha, but OneWorld has been caring for adolescent patients at several locations for many years. We understand that finding health care can be challenging for teens and young adults. Often, we find that they feel too old to visit a pediatrician, but they might not be comfortable with visiting a family practice doctor. Clinicians at our Teen and Young Adult Health Centers are specially trained in all aspects of teen and young adult physical, emotional, mental and sexual health, and clinicians at our other locations are also equipped to help young people through difficult situations.

In the last year at OneWorld clinics, our providers were able to make differences in the lives of young people:

“A patient who was a senior ... spoke with a behavioral health therapist, and we discovered that he had had depression for the past year had a lot of concerns about his future. We were able to get his mom involved and treat the depression. He was getting better, but he was still having some passive thoughts of life not being worth it because he may not be successful. We spent a lot of time with him talking about what success meant to him. He worried he would never go to college, as his family told him it wasn’t worth him going to college unless he got scholarships ... We heavily encouraged him to go to school and told him that he can have the future he wants. We encouraged him to apply for scholarships that he didn’t think he would ‘have a chance at.’ One day last spring, he was basically busting down our door wanting to see us to share some news: He got a full ride along with two other scholarships. We teared up seeing the excitement in his eyes and the pride he had in himself. The relationships we are building with these young people really do matter.”

-Mindee Swanson, APRN-NP, DNP, FNP-BC

“We saw a 15-year-old young man who presented with severe depression ... He reported that he’d run away from home after his mom told him she wished he would ‘just commit suicide and stop bothering her.’ Somehow, he got his hands on a gun and left home planning to kill himself. He said that, while he was sitting on some railroad tracks looking at the gun in his hand, he recalled some of the things we had talked about in his safety plan, and he decided to call a friend. The friend immediately came and picked him up ... Currently, the teen is temporarily placed at a local care facility. When he returned to the clinic, he was very humble, thanked us for giving him support, and hugged us as he left ... I’m really glad he is alive and that we get to be a part of his journey through life. Despite the circumstances and challenges he’s faced, to see the difference ... was striking. He had a light back in his eye, a new hope for life and future.”

-James Connelly, PhD, LiMHP, LMHP, PC

All are welcome at OneWorld! To make an appointment at the new clinic, teens and young adults can call (402) 769-7077 or text (402) 913-8630. Learn more at www.TYAHC.org.
On July 9, 2019, OneWorld officially opened our newest clinic: OneWorld’s Teen and Young Adult Health Center in West Omaha.

Members of the press, community partners and friends of OneWorld attended the open house and ribbon cutting ceremony. Mayor Jean Stothert spoke during the ceremony, and she cut the ribbon outside the main entrance.

Located at 2520 S. 130th Ave. and staffed with top-quality physicians and other health practitioners, our new clinic focuses on the physical and emotional well-being of young people ages 12-24. This clinic builds on the success of our Teen and Young Adult Health Center in South Omaha, which was the first clinic of its kind in Nebraska.

OneWorld’s innovative Teen and Adult Health Centers are the only comprehensive health centers in the Omaha metro area that are dedicated to teens and young adults. The clinics were both intentionally designed to be warm and welcoming—the new clinic even offers phone charging stations and video games in the waiting area.

The clinic’s extended night and weekend hours make critical primary and behavioral health care more accessible for teens and young adults who speak nine different languages and live throughout the Omaha metro area.

At our Teen and Young Adult Health Centers, all young people have access to confidential testing for sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy, STD treatment, educational materials, condoms and birth control — all at no cost to them, whether they have health insurance or not.
“We are resilient on some days but not on others. We recover quickly from one kind of stress, but struggle to bounce back after another. What we share is our place on the river.”

—Featured guest speaker Dr. Mary Pipher

Please save the date for our 2019 Milagro Dinner, where we will recognize members of the community who have helped make miracles (“milagros”) happen for our patients.

Our 2019 Milagro Dinner will take place on Thursday, November 14, 2019 at the Hilton Downtown Omaha (1001 Cass St.). Cocktails and a silent auction will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Our featured guest speaker this year is Mary Pipher, Ph.D., New York Times bestselling author of 10 books, including *Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls* (now celebrating its 25th anniversary) and her latest publication, *Women Rowing North: Navigating Life’s Currents and Flourishing As We Age*. Pipher will speak about resilience, and guests will have an opportunity to meet her at a book signing during the cocktail hour.

The Milagro Dinner would not be possible without our generous sponsors. Special thanks to our committed Change Partners, Michael & Susan Lebens, for their generosity and continued support of OneWorld’s mission.

You can reserve your spot at the Milagro Dinner today by purchasing tickets online at bit.ly/OWMilagro. Partnership opportunities are still available. For more information about the Milagro Dinner, please contact Development Specialist Rachel Schure at (402) 502-8940 or at rschure@oneworldomaha.org.
One person, one gift, a world of difference

Right here in Omaha, thousands of hardworking families cannot afford health care. Though OneWorld helps people enroll in Medicaid and the health insurance marketplace, we are finding that many of our patients do not qualify or cannot afford the premium. Our sliding fee scale ensures that all patients receive care regardless of insurance status. We offer our patients a trusted place to come when they need medical, dental, behavioral health or pharmacy services, and we can connect them with community resources. We also educate our patients about the importance of prevention and encourage them to take time for their health. Being here for our patients makes a big difference in their lives, but we need your help so we can continue to care for those who need us.

Donors help OneWorld patient families access school supplies

In lieu of a Back-to-School Bash this year, OneWorld hosted a school supplies drive. Many of the families we serve do not have enough money to purchase basic school supplies for their children, and many face barriers to accessing other community resources.

Volunteers from SEI Security helped us fill backpacks with school supplies, and the backpacks were distributed to our patients during their scheduled appointments while supplies lasted.

Thank you to everyone who individually donated items or monetary gifts to support our drive. We also want to thank the following organizations for their contributions: Boys Town National Research Hospital, Builertrend, Nebraska Total Care, UnitedHealthcare, WellCare Health Plans and United Way of the Midlands.

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DONATE ONLINE!
oneworldomaha.org

Thanks to our generous donors, we were able to provide 138 children with backpacks full of school supplies before the new school year.
OUR mission

OneWorld Community Health Centers, in partnership with the community, provides culturally respectful, quality health care with special attention to the underserved.

September Symens-Lacroix
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If you no longer wish to receive information about OneWorld Community Health Centers, Inc., please call (402) 502-8871 or email ssymens@oneworldomaha.org.

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