Parents and Kids Learn Together at the Learning Community Center of South Omaha

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Thinking about *Human Rights* This Season

During the holidays, we think about those we love and what we are grateful for. It’s also important to think of how we can help others and spread that gratitude around.

Human Rights Day is observed every year on December 10, giving us all a chance to remember the people who might not enjoy all the rights we do. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations. It is a milestone document that proclaimed the rights, which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being -- regardless of race, color, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, ethnic, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

More than recognizing that others do not have these rights, we can all do a little something to help change it. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights empowers us all to stand up for our own rights and the rights of our fellow human beings.

Your support for OneWorld is a step in the right direction. You have helped bring much-needed health care and assistance to people who might not receive it otherwise, helping them feel dignity and confidence. Nevertheless, we can all do more. Visit www.standup4humanrights.org to find out more about how to help, but here are a few ideas to get you started.

- Promote Human Rights on your social media accounts and use #StandUp4HumanRights.
- Reach out to someone who has been bullied or harassed and let him or her know you stand with him or her.
- Stand up for someone when their rights are being violated, letting the violator know you will not tolerate these acts.
- Call upon your local and state leaders to support human rights in your area.

Large or small, your gestures in support of others’ humans’ rights to health, happiness, dignity, and respect make a difference in the community.

Sincerely,

Andrea Skolkin,  
Chief Executive Officer of OneWorld
Save the date 2020

**March/April** - OneWorld 50th Anniversary Kick-Off
- Our History by the Decade Displays at our locations
- KETV Onesies for OneWorld Drive

**May** - Omaha Gives

**June** - Get Up Get Moving

**August** - Patient Appreciation Day
- Back to School Event

**September** - Coats for Kids

**October** - Bi-National Health Week
- Women’s Health Night

**November** - Milagro Dinner
- Transforming Lives for 50 Years

**OneWorld snapshot**

Meet Our **Patient Voice Council**

While OneWorld’s Board has a patient majority, it is vital to our health center that we take extra care to ensure that patient and community needs are at the forefront of care.

OneWorld’s Patient Voice Council is designed to grow the knowledge base of Hispanic community members and further involve them in issues and decisions about the health center and the community. The Advisory Council comes together once a month and creates its own action plan for learning and engagement in crucial decisions about the health center, whether it is policy, strategic direction, or better understanding services. While they learn, they also share the expertise they gain with their family, friends, neighbors, and community. Topics have included 2020-2023 OneWorld strategic plan, our sliding fee scale, diabetes, health center funding, immigration, pharmacy, and volunteer opportunities.

**did you know?**

OneWorld ranks in the top 2% for quality among 1,400 federally qualified health centers in the nation. More than 46,000 people, including 18,000 children are cared for throughout OneWorld’s 13 clinical locations.

*Pictured above: Dr. Kris McVea, OneWorld Chief Medical Officer (left), Julia Ramirez (center), and Maria Aguayo (right). Julia is celebrating her first year on the Patient Voice Council.*
Conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play influence a wide range of health risks and outcomes. These conditions are known as social determinants of health.

We know that poverty limits access to healthy foods and safe neighborhoods and that education is a predictor of better health. We also know that differences in health are striking in communities with unstable housing and income, unsafe neighborhoods, or substandard education.

The Learning Community Center of South Omaha helps alleviate some of these differences by assisting families with the education and resources they need to succeed. The two generation family learning program helps participants become better connected to their community and build relationships.

Learning English helps parents gain the confidence to build relationships with their children’s teachers and connect with their local schools. Parents are also empowered to become more active and involved in their child’s education.

While parents are participating in classes, staff engage children in enriching and developmentally appropriate learning experiences. Child learning rooms give parents peace of mind while they learn and help their young children get an early start. Early childhood specialists focus on social-emotional growth and activities to help children build school readiness skills. It is easier for parents and children to love learning when classrooms are near by each other.

By learning English, navigating the school system is easier, parents learn to read as a family and to help with homework. Typical classes are fifteen parents, and topics include preparing for teacher conferences, using computers, academic enrichment opportunities within Omaha, growing a comfort level to enrich and build the expectations for their children.

The center’s navigators follow families every step of the way through the program and visit them in their homes. At home, parents often feel more comfortable sharing a concern or working on a new skill. With personal support, families turn unique challenges into great family opportunities.

To learn more about the Learning Community Center of South Omaha, a partnership between OneWorld and The Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy County, and get involved, visit learningcommunityds.org.

The home visitation program uses research-based programs for family success. Parents tell us working with navigators at home is the critical piece that helps everyone move forward with confidence. Navigators help parents with the public school system including issues like translating documents, accessing

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their child’s grades online, and who to contact at the school for specialized needs. The navigators also work with key partner agencies to help families obtain legal services and job counseling.

When school is out of session, year-round family-focused activities are a great learning opportunity. Parents and children enjoy field trips in the community as well as “themed” learning days at the center. It is a chance to practice and learn new things. The experiences build stronger bonds and a better sense of community. Family activities include college preparation; STEM learning, Prime Time Family Reading, UNO Music Zoo, String Sprouts, Opera Omaha, a visit to the state capitol, and Family Summer Camp.

Through a partnership with the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) Service Learning Academy, families discover that college is within reach for both children and parents. In a series of weekly field trips to the UNO campus, families learn about college life, the benefits of a college degree, how to apply, and how to make college affordable.

After parents complete two years in the family learning program, they are better prepared to support their children in school, as well as be leaders in their school communities, confident employees, and lifelong learners. The majority continue their own education because they see firsthand how learning impacts life. Graduation day celebrates new beginnings for the whole family.

After participating in family learning, parents feel comfortable taking advantage of other classes offered by the center. Thanks donors and a generous network of community partners, the center is always adding new opportunities for children and families. Current offerings include Money Management, Parenting, Family Strengthening, Growing Great Kids, Math at Home, Common Sense Parenting, Circle of Security, Domestic Violence Prevention, Love and Logic, and Learning Loss Prevention.

Independent program evaluations by the University of Nebraska Medical Center confirm a strong impact – parents are more connected, support learning at home, are involved in school, and have high expectations. Children’s math and reading scores are higher and they are motivated, value education, respect teachers, and set college goals. Parents are also comfortable reading to their children, doing math, and talking with teachers.
OneWorld introduced a second mobile dental clinic expanding oral health to even more children. OneWorld will treat several hundred low-income children in Omaha and its surrounding communities on the new *Fluo-ride*. The clinic will visit area schools and other community locations to provide basic dental care like exams, cleanings, fillings, fluoride varnishes and more for children who might otherwise go without these services. The Fluo-ride mobile dental clinic adds to OneWorld’s mobile dentistry program doubling the size of the program to include two mobile dental clinics and enabling care for 1600 low-income children. By visiting schools, the Fluo-ride will allow children to receive dental care that may not otherwise receive care because of cost, transportation, inability of their parents to take time off work.

“Providing children with access to dental care is important because tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease,” Brian Penly, Dental Director of OneWorld, said. “About 20 percent of children who are between 5 and 11 years old have at least one untreated decayed tooth. Nationwide, children miss more than 51 million hours of school every year because of dental-related issues. More than half of the children we care for have dental decay; if we catch children early enough we can teach them good habits for a lifetime.”

The William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation donated the mobile and a number of philanthropies in Omaha support the program.

OneWorld also has four dental clinic locations including Bellevue, South Omaha, West and Northwest Omaha.
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.

**One person, one gift, a world of difference**

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Our Mission

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

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