

COLUMBIA ROAD HEALTH SERVICES

1660 Columbia Road, NW • Washington, DC 20009-3602 • (202) 328-3717 • fax (202) 588-8101 • www.crhs.org

June 2010

Dear Friends,

Since our doors opened in 1979, we have seen and continue to see many patients enter Columbia Road Health Services (CRHS) bearing heavy burdens—burdens of sickness, of poverty, or of anxiety about how to care for their families. Recognizing that each person's health needs are linked to his or her individual circumstances, we serve each patient with personalized medical care and the support of our mental health counseling and social services staff as needed.

Throughout the history of CRHS, we have undergone many changes in order to best serve our patients. CRHS has grown considerably since its origins in a two-bedroom apartment. Our change in status to a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Look-Alike in the 1990s and then to a FQHC in 2003 has enabled us to reach more patients as we qualify for federal grants and higher reimbursement rates for our services. The administrative requirements of maintaining our FQHC status, however, have been disproportionate to our small size. **As we have reflected and prayed in the past year, we believe it would be in the best interest of our patients to become a part of a larger community health center network, Unity Health Care.**

The histories of CRHS and Unity Health Care are intertwined. When the District of Columbia began the Health Care for the Homeless project in 1985, CRHS housed the project's offices and leadership. As the years passed, the Health Care for the Homeless project expanded and changed its name to Unity Health Care. Now Unity Health Care encompasses a large network of community health centers scattered throughout the District, as well as health centers in homeless shelters, mobile vans, schools, and the DC jail. Like CRHS, Unity Health Care is an FQHC and a nonprofit.

By joining the Unity network, we will have much of the labor-intensive federal grant requirements lifted from our shoulders so that we may concentrate on direct patient care. Through these years I have also been a part of the leadership of Unity, which has a mission and values that reflect those of CRHS. By joining a larger health care network, we believe CRHS will be able to continue for years to provide health care for the poor.

CRHS and Unity Health Care will merge on July 1, 2010. The CRHS mission, operations, and dedication to our patients will continue as before. **Our need for financial support continues as urgently as before.** Gifts designated for CRHS will stay within CRHS. Without your gifts throughout our history, CRHS would never have been able to care for so many people. Your continued gifts will help us care for many more in the future.

I want to express sincere gratitude from our patients for the difference you help make in their lives. Daily we are aware of the suffering your support helps to alleviate. And daily we see many people walk out of our clinic filled with more hope than when they walked in. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Janelle Goetcheus
Founding Medical Director

A. JANELLE GOETCHEUS, MD
FOUNDING MEDICAL DIRECTOR

SUSAN F. RIGGS
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

DONALD E. MARTIN, MD
ASSOCIATE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

ALISON W. BARTLEMAN, MD

DONNA C. CHACKO, MD

RONA A. SCHWARTZ, MD

TONYA H. WANKO, MD

WILLIAM A. JORDAN, CRNP

MARGARET J. HORST, CRNP

PRISCILLA M. BEACH, RN

DEBRA R. VEKSTEIN, MS, LPC

ALEXANDER A. GOODWILL,
MSW, LGSW