



# Turner House Children's Clinic

*Providing Quality Healthcare for Kansas City's Uninsured and Underserved Children*

Fall 2008

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## Turner House Fast Facts:

- Serves families who live below 200% of the poverty line.
- Services provided in English and Spanish.
- Serving Kansas City since 1989.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Herbert V. Davis, MD



Most of us working at Turner House Children's Clinic today don't remember when the clinic was located on 3<sup>rd</sup> and Spring Street in the Turner Community Center. Dr. Herbert Davis is an exception. He started volunteering there in 1991 after retiring from private practice with Pediatrics Associates after 56 years.

Born and raised in Oregon, Dr. Davis attended the University of Oregon Medical School. He completed his residency in Kansas City, and on graduation in 1943, he married his wife, Nettie, a nurse who worked in his office. Nettie passed away three years ago after 62 years of marriage. They had four children, living across the U.S. in Chicago, Illinois; San Francisco, California; Camdenton, Missouri; and Seattle, Washington. He has four grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

In addition to volunteering at Turner House at least three times a month, Dr. Davis participates in medical missions to Haiti with St. Paul's Episcopal Church. This November will mark his 20<sup>th</sup> trip. He speaks proudly about the accomplishments there. The mission, which in 1988, had no school, now boasts classrooms

for 220 children with books and equipment. Children also receive a hot meal. The group has recently improved the water system in the village and is moving on other services. They hope to expand the school to include 9<sup>th</sup> graders. In the 20 years he's been going to Haiti, Dr. Davis learned to speak Creole.

Dr. Davis is equally proud of the accomplishments of Turner House. He is excited about the expansion project, noting that it is something that has been needed, especially the new, expanded waiting room, formerly cramped and overflowing with sick and well children together. He believes that Turner House fills a great need for children who need medical care and don't have health insurance. The mission is an extension of his own—"to help your brothers and sisters, especially those less fortunate. It's what we're supposed to do," he says.

## Turner House is Growing!

For the past couple of months at Turner House Children's Clinic the usual sounds of children, copiers, and conversation have been accompanied by hammers, drills, and saws. Walls have gone down and new ones have come up. Staff has been shuffled, along with medical records. The lobby and the lab have been relocated—all while continuing to provide vital health services to Kansas City kids.

The progress is nearly complete, however, and the expanded clinic will soon be fully operational. That means a larger lobby, an additional four exam rooms, two triage areas instead of just one, a larger break room that accommodates the growing Turner House staff, and additional offices and work spaces. The physical space occupied by Turner House has nearly doubled. But more importantly, this expansion has im-

proved our ability to serve uninsured and underserved families. This increased capacity will allow Turner House to provide more than 1,200 additional patient visits next year, 2,350 additional visits the year following, and 3,750 additional visits during the third year after construction. So we know that the extra noise and dust was certainly worth it!

*Dennis discusses the expansion with Leonard, our hardworking foreman.*



## Letter from the ED

### Dennis Boody

As I approach my first year anniversary with Turner House Children's Clinic, I reflect upon what a great experience working here has been and how much has occurred in a relatively short period of time. Turner House is a wonderful organization, doing important work and facing a promising future.

Providing medical care to uninsured and underserved children continues to be a societal challenge and a priority in our community. Throughout the state of Kansas, there are nearly 50,000 uninsured children. The number of Hispanic residents in Wyandotte County is rising at a staggering rate, and in 2001, 30.2% of Hispanic children in the county were uninsured. Additionally, according to the Mid-America Regional Council, more than 7,500 residents living below 200% of the poverty line in the areas of Wyandotte County served by Turner House did not receive health care services in a safety net clinic in 2007. These statistics indicate that there is still a large population of uninsured families who are not receiving health care, and this situation is especially prevalent within the growing Hispanic community of Wyandotte County.

Turner House Children's Clinic has met this challenge by serving about 3,000 individual patients in over 7,000 visits last year. We pro-

vide 13 clinic sessions most weeks, including two evening sessions and one on Saturday mornings. We are now poised to nearly double the number of children we see in the upcoming year.

Our successful expansion project, finished in October, nearly doubled the clinic size. We continue to search for a bilingual doctor who can complement the current physician and volunteers by working full time, covering. Most clinic sessions will now have two providers instead of just one.

Turner House has been fortunate this year to have technical assistance provided by the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City and REACH Healthcare Foundation. This assistance is enhancing day-to-day clinic operations and patient outcomes by helping us to become a more robust "medical home" for patients and improving information and technology systems.

Patient services continue to grow as well. We continue to participate in Reach Out and Reach (an early literacy program) and provide asthma education to our families affected by that ever more common disease. In addition, we recently hired a patient advocate who will assist our uninjured patients to get free or reduced cost medications.



Turner House Children's Clinic is expanding and improving services and outcomes for our patients and their families. I applaud our entire team of employees who, on a daily basis, have lived through the chaos of construction and the uncertainty of change, but always remain focused on our mission and our patients. And I recognize our supporters, friends and volunteers, who through generous sharing of talent, time and resources, also assist us in providing quality primary health care to the vulnerable children in our community.

## Welcome, Cristo Rey Students!



*Luis Ramos, new Cristo Rey Intern, is hard at work at Turner House.*

Luis Ramos is a freshman at Cristo Rey School in Kansas City, Missouri. He's also working at Turner House Children's Clinic this fall as part of their Corporate Work Study Program. His experiences at Turner House are designed to prepare him for both college and the professional world outside of school.

Turner House Children's Clinic is excited to partner with Cristo Rey, a college prep high school located in Kansas City, Missouri. Cristo Rey provides all students with the unique opportunity to work part-time through a corporate internship. Students receive compensation for their work, in

Luis is one of four students assigned to Turner House, each working one day a week for the fall semester. He has cheerfully jumped in to help with filing in patient charts, putting identification numbers on charts, and checking paper charts against the electronic files of patient that are recorded into the computer.

Luis and his peers have already been a great help to Turner House staff, especially given the current space expansion and all of the work associated with transitioning into our new space. Other Cristo Rey students currently working at here Turner House Children's Clinic are: Ruth Orozco, Wilma Arevalo, and Miguel Patricio.

order to cover the cost of tuition. For not-for profits such as Turner House, however, these students are provided without cost to the clinic.





*Dr. Gage reads "The Cat in the Hat" to patients in the waiting room, for Read Across America Day.*

## Reach Out and Read at Turner House

Turner House Children's Clinic participates in Reach Out and Read, a national non-profit organization that promotes early literacy by giving new books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud in pediatric exam rooms across the nation. The purpose of the program is to provide tools to help promote children's developmental skills and later school success.

**"The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."**

**—Dr. Seuss**

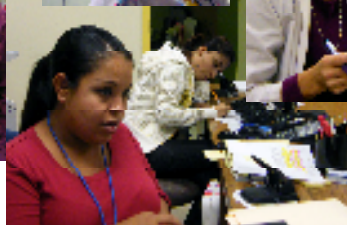
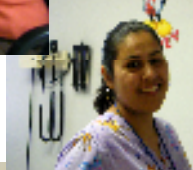
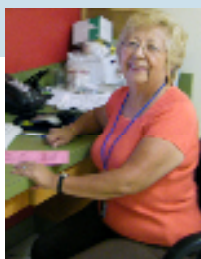
Read Across America Day, is celebrated each year on March 3 in honor of the birthday of Dr. Seuss, as a way for families, schools, libraries, clinics and communities to join together and celebrate reading. In honor of the event, this year, Turner House volunteer physician Dr. Betse Gage, read to children in the waiting room. Bev Chapman of KMBC-TV, and \_\_\_\_\_ of the local Reach Out and Read organization were also readers.

At every well-child check-up, doctors and nurses encourage parents to read aloud to their young children, and offer age-appropriate tips and encouragement. Every child between the ages of six months and five years receives a new, developmentally appropriate children's book to keep.

If you are interested in reading at Turner House, please contact Cinthya Hernandez at (913) 342-2552.

## Meet the Staff

Nancy Beezley, MD  
Dennis R. Boody, Executive Director  
Rachel Duarte, Medical Assistant  
Olga Fernandez, Medical Assistant  
Cinthya Hernandez, LPN  
Brenda Hernandez, Front Desk Staff  
JoLee Jurgens, Administrative Assistant  
Satish Khurana, MD  
Victoria Mendoza, Front Desk Staff  
Amada Olivas, Medical Records/Interpreter  
Maria Rios, Front Desk Staff  
Cori Stites, Patient Medication Advocate  
Phyllis White, Director of Development  
Stevie Wilson, LNP  
Eunice Zuniga, Medical Assistant



## Our Board of Directors:

William Moran  
*President*  
Richard Charette, M.D.  
*Medical Director*  
Roger O. Lambson  
*Secretary/Treasurer*  
Antoni M. Diehl, M.D.  
L. A. Gast  
Rev. Ken Nettling  
Robert D. Paredes II  
Sallie Veenstra, M.D.  
Robert L. Milan, Sr.

## Turner House Wish List

Turner House Children's Clinic is always in need of the following items:

- ❖ Diapers of all sizes
- ❖ Baby Wipes
- ❖ Pull-Ups
- ❖ Office Supplies
- ❖ Boxes of Kleenex
- ❖ Books
- ❖ Volunteer Doctors
- ❖ Spanish-Speaking Volunteers



*Two Turner House patients check out the lobby "library" before they see the doctor.*

## Turner House Children's Clinic

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## *"I Spy" at Turner House Children's Clinic...*

