



ACCESS INFORMATION

Project Access Contributions To Community Continue to Grow

There has been a great deal of activity associated with the Project Access program since you received our last newsletter:

- We have been in contact with a number of communities, including Burlington, Iowa and Augusta, Georgia, interested in implementing similar programs.
- We have increased our patient enrollments.
- We continue to seek additional providers willing to participate (like the Angel Flight program highlighted in this newsletter).
- We have been working hard on The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation three-year grant. In September, a team of presenters from our community traveled to Chicago to present our application for a Phase II planning grant to the RWJF's Advisory Board.

We recently received very good news from the Kansas Health Foundation who has awarded Project Access a grant for a community-wide outreach initiative. This grant will also fund the development of interpreter services for enrolled patients.

On behalf of the members of the Central Plains Regional Health Care Foundation and the Project Access staff, I want to wish each of you a warm and happy holiday season. Thanks to each of you for making this year so special.

Look for our next newsletter coming during the first quarter of the year.



Anne Nelson
Program Director

With every passing day, Project Access continues to make a difference in Wichita-Sedgwick County. The chart below documents the contributions of physicians, hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, health care providers and city-county governments to improving the health and well-being of uninsured patients in our community since Project Access opened its doors.

Project Access Contributions September 1, 1999 – November 27, 2000

Provider Type	# of Providers*	Amount Donated	% of Total
Hospitals	6	\$4,690,309	68%
Physicians		\$2,013,208	29%
Laboratories	3	\$3,489	
Ambulatory Surgery Ctrs.	4	\$200,103	3%
X-ray Facility	1	\$4,252	
Physical Therapy	5	\$4,444	
Physician Assistants	4	\$3,228	
Home Health Providers	1	\$54	
TOTAL		\$6,919,087	

*information compiled from HCFA forms submitted

As of November 27, 2000:

- **1,500 patients** enrolled since September 1, 1999
- The area's six indigent care clinics are now enrolling patients and four primary care residency clinics are requesting enrollment of patients
- Prescriptions purchased total **\$194,000** with funding provided by the Sedgwick County Commission and the Wichita City Council

Physicians:

- **520 physicians** have agreed to participate in Project Access and have committed to serve a total of 9,190 patients annually (10 primary care patients or 20 specialty care patients per year)
- 121 are primary care physicians and 399 are specialists

Hospitals participating:

Via Christi Health Care System, Wesley Medical Center, Riverside Health Care System, Wesley Rehabilitation Hospital, Our Lady of Lourdes, Kansas Surgery and Recovery Center and Kansas Heart Hospital.

Other providers:

- **54 pharmacies** fill prescriptions at 15% below average wholesale price and do not receive payment for filling these prescriptions
- Other patient services include physical therapy, DME, hospice care, etc.

For Your Information

● Physician billing offices are reminded to send HCFA billing forms to the Project Access office, 1802 S. Hillside, for each Project Access patient referred to the physician. HCFAs enable the program staff to track the total number of patients referrals as well as the number of Project Access patients referred to each physician.

“It is so important that we receive a HCFA form for each Project Access patient,” said Anne Nelson, program director. “These forms are the only way we can accurately account for all patient referrals, including those that occur between physicians.”

The billing forms should be addressed to Project Access rather than WPPA, Inc.

● Physician offices are encouraged to contact Project Access if a patient do not show for an appointment or if other patient-related concerns arise.

“Our staff will follow through with patients if we know there is a problem,” explained Nelson. “We are here to assist the physician and their offices.”

Please call the Project Access office at 688-0600.

● Project Access often receives inquiries about patient eligibility criteria. To qualify for Project Access, patients must meet the following criteria:

- Resides in Sedgwick County
- Not eligible for or covered by any health insurance plan, Medicare or Medicaid
- Annual family income does not exceed 150% of the federal poverty level (approximately \$25,000 for family of four)

To receive informational brochures about Project Access, contact the program office at 688-0600.

Air Service Available For Any Patient In Need

Angel Flight Central is a coordinated system of pilots who volunteer to fly persons in need to medical providers and facilities located anywhere in the U.S. These flights are free of charge to the patients; participating pilots pay for all transportation-related expenses.

“Angel Flight is a wonderful service available for any patient with financial need, not just those participating in Project Access,” explained Anne Nelson. “This is a tremendous resource that everyone local physician should be aware of.”

Angel Flight Central is part of a larger, national system of volunteer pilots called Angel Flight America. Patients must demonstrate financial need and must be ambulatory. To access donated flights or to learn more about Angel Flight, call 1-800-474-9464.

Patients Share Their Thanks

“Thank you, Project Access. I could not have had the needed surgery without you. I am the caregiver of our home, which includes a disabled daughter and husband, so being healthier affects them as well. Emotional needs were met when I was told I qualified for the program. My self-esteem was helped when all the people involved in my treatment gave me kind care.”

“Everyone I contacted treated me with respect and helpfulness.”

“Project Access is a very good program. Thank you for helping me out in my time of need. I appreciated the whole program. Without it, I still would probably be sick.”

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