

NOAH reaches out to improve our community's health

In today's challenging times, more adults and children are finding themselves without health insurance. Already, nearly one-fifth of Arizona children are uninsured and almost half have not seen a doctor or dentist in the last year.

This makes Scottsdale Healthcare's flagship community benefit program—Neighborhood Outreach Action for Health (NOAH)—more important than ever.

NOAH, which receives support from the Scottsdale Healthcare Foundation, operates two clinics—one at Palomino Elementary School and the other at the Paiute Neighborhood Center. The clinics provide free and low-cost primary medical and dental care services to uninsured and underserved children and their immediate family members.

"NOAH ensures access to primary health services for those in our community with the least ability to pay,"

said Sharon Heuer, manager of Community Health Services. "Our focus on well care, immunizations, prenatal care and medical management of chronic diseases improves the health of our community both today and far into the future."



Sharon Heuer
Manager of
Community
Health Services

An integrated model

NOAH clinics provide patients with one place to go for primary medical and oral care.

As part of this integrated model, hundreds of children have received well-child visits that include health screenings, evaluation of normal growth and development, immunizations, and family-centered health education.

Children also receive hygiene care, fluoride varnish,

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Through the NOAH program, restorative dental care is provided to a child by Dr. Chae and the staff at Affiliated Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics in Scottsdale.

home fluoride treatment, toothbrushes and toothpaste as part of NOAH's dental program. Restorative dental care is provided if needed.

NOAH's successful integrated approach is being adopted by school-based clinics around the state, according to Sharon. In addition to her role at Scottsdale Healthcare, she serves as president of the Arizona School-Based Health Care Council, a non-profit organization that represents providers of primary health services in school sites.

Partnering with our community

In addition to providing care at two clinics, NOAH has collaborated with community organizations to promote

health and wellness and help prevent chronic disease.

For example, NOAH centers enrolled children at risk for diabetes and obesity in a swimming and healthy snack program, plus provided screening and family-focused nutrition education. As part of the program, the City of Scottsdale and City of Phoenix provided swimming lessons and open swimming at city pools, while Scottsdale and Paradise Valley school districts provided transportation.

Scottsdale Healthcare's Community Health Services department contributed health educators, a healthy snack and program coordination.

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*—Sharon Heuer
Manager of Community Health Services*

"Children showed improvement in health outcomes, became competent swimmers and were introduced to a healthy physical activity," said Sharon, adding that as a follow-up to the program, NOAH sponsored a city pool to ensure that low-income children had free access to summer swim programs.

As another example, NOAH partnered with the Paradise Valley Unified School District to create a program to increase physical activity and educate children about healthy eating. During the Grand Canyon Trekker program, more than 3,100 children collectively walked more than 44,500 miles—and top walkers actually were able to hike the canyon.

"Scottsdale Healthcare benefits our community significantly through our NOAH program. We're providing medical and dental care for residents who otherwise would go without. At the same time, we're offering education and activities to help them lead healthier lives," Sharon said.

NOAH VISITS IN 2008

- 6,132 primary-care visits
- 2,123 dental visits
- 640 well-child visits
- 276 women received well-women exams
- 50 women received prenatal care

