

Creating a Community of Care for the Uninsured

Non-citizen children helped by Project Access

Wake County Human Services – Dr. Isabel Ferrell

- Many of our Child Health patients, who do not have insurance, are able obtain the fasting blood work through Project Access. These tests are needed to qualify for the WMC DM prevention program Energize which is grant funded. This saves our families several hundred dollars in lab tests, and enables them to participate in the program.
- A 15-year old patient who is s/p removal of a benign brain tumor 3 years ago. She requires yearly brain MRI to monitor for recurrence. Without Project Access this family could not afford the MRI's. They are extremely grateful for Project Access, and happy to report their daughter is doing very well.
- Dr. Board, pediatric ophthalmology, Dr Holmes, ENT and Dr. Bukowski, pediatric urology, see many of our patients for which we are extremely grateful!

Patient of the Family Planning Clinic

Wake County Human Services -

- A 21-year mother of three has been a patient of the WCHS Family Planning Clinic since 2003. Her first child was born at age 17. She is a US citizen; she works part-time and is married. Their household income is \$20,556. During her annual exam at the Health Department a small tender nodule was found on her thyroid. The patient was questioned about whether she had a history of thyroid problems, which she declined. Thyroid studies were performed and results were normal. However, given the presence of the nodule, she was referred to ENT through Project Access. The patient called soon after her appointment with Dr. Clark of Capitol ENT. He confirmed the presence of a thyroid nodule and performed a biopsy the same day. The pathology revealed a Papillary Carcinoma, a form of potentially malignant carcinoma if not treated promptly. The physician commented that this is a fairly rare type of cancer and was impressed that it was found on a routine health screening. She received treatment and recently reported how appreciative and blessed she was because of the WCHS and Project Access managing her care.

Words of Thanks from Enrollees

- I would like to let all involved in Project Access know how much of a god-send it has been. Prior injuries and the economy wiped me and my wife out completely. We lost our property, our home and my building company. With no insurance I haven't been able to take care of myself like I should and with the help of my doctors, I've been able to get several problems fixed or at least under control. My shoulder was violently dislocated several years ago and until recently my shoulder would come out of socket if i just moved the wrong way. With the help of this wonderful program and generous doctors and hospitals, I've been able to have it reconstructed. During the procedure Dr. Burt at Triangle Orthopaedic Associates found a 1" bone fragment in the joint and took out over an

inch of tendon. After putting it all back together my shoulder no longer pops out of place. Thank you, I don't know what I would have done without your help

- A young 23 year-old husband and father who was employed, but without insurance, was diagnosed with throat cancer. He did not know about Project Access and was not going to seek medical treatment because he could not pay for it. His oncologist at Duke Raleigh Oncology had him apply for Project Access. He was screened and approved and has been able to receive the surgery and follow-up treatment. He and his young wife were deeply grateful for this program and for the generosity of all PA providers.
- An uninsured single mom, age 46, with a part-time job expressed gratitude for finally having a personal physician and being treated with dignity in the Project Access enrollment process. She had been in need of long-overdue diagnostic tests. Her female family members have had breast cancer scares, and she had become very concerned regarding a recently discovered lump. She was grateful to have been able to speak confidentially with her "own" doctor to discuss her risk. Through Project Access, she was able to obtain her first mammogram in four years, which comforted her fears.
- A patient recently reported that prior to having her critical back surgery; she met with her two surgeons who would be performing the procedure. She reported that after learning about what the physicians were willing to do, and knowing that she would have a better result if she stopped smoking, she broke a 30-plus year nicotine habit. She reported that the gift of "not smoking again" was the only way she could assure her surgeons that she understood what they were doing for her. She now can sit on the floor and play with her grandchildren

THANK YOU PROJECT ACCESS AND WONDERFUL DOCTORS AND STAFF WHO REALLY CARE

- "Project Access is a vital part of my life....I want to thank you once more for providing this life sustaining benefit in my life. I cannot sing the praises of this project high or long enough to everyone I come in contact with."

