



## Season's Greetings!

December 2010

### Planning for the New Year

Please join the Board of Oasis of Hope Center in thanking God for providing the clinic with the necessary resources to provide over 3,000 patient visits in 2010. What a blessing it has been to all involved to have the opportunity to provide hope by meeting the medical needs of the patients God has brought to our doors. We are so grateful for the ways in which the community has supported this great mission. We have received donations from local churches, public donors, patients, grants and gifts in memorial. Oasis also has been gifted with an outstanding volunteer base. As we are staffed solely by volunteers, without this generous donation of their time so many patient visits would not have been possible. With no direct affiliations, and no expectation of assistance from Washington any time soon, and with anticipated increased demand for services, we continue to trust God to provide the funds and volunteers needed to increase our patient visits next year.

It is hard to believe we are nearing the completion of our 4th year. Seems like it was not all that long ago that our executive director took a leap of faith and followed God's call on her life to open Oasis of Hope. As you can read in the God stories Barb has shared with us in this edition of the newsletter, God has a purpose for this place and for all involved in this ministry. We are looking forward to seeing what the Lord has planned for us in 2011. Please join us in preparing for next year by praying for Barb, the board, volunteers and patients. Pray that the necessary resources continue to come in and that we are good stewards of the gifts we receive. Pray that the mission of offering Hope in His Name remains our primary focus as we seek to further His Kingdom.

*A Special Thanks from all of us !  
Oasis of Hope Center Board Members & Staff*

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#### Welcome Aboard!

*Oasis of Hope would like to welcome the following members to our loyal board:*

##### Ron Stuursma

...brings a wealth of gifts to the OHC community from his experience as a health-care administrator with special emphasis in the area of behavioral health.

##### Noreen Nortier

...is herself a true gift to OHC applying her years of experience as a clinical physician assistant both to the Board and as a working volunteer in the clinic.

More information, including complete biographies on Ron, Noreen, and the rest of the Oasis Board is available on our website

[www.oasis-of-hope-center.org](http://www.oasis-of-hope-center.org)



## Our 4th Annual Health Fair

November 18th, we hosted our 4th Annual Health Fair here on the Westside of Grand Rapids. This time is always pure enjoyment for us and a fulfillment of the Oasis Vision as we are able to educate and inform our neighbors on good health decisions and also provide them with community resources.



## Partner with us

We continue to need your partnership in so many varying ways: prayer, encouragement, as community advocates, as a source of volunteers, and of course, cash donations.

If you are able to give of your time, resources, or finances, please feel free to contact us via phone, mail, or through our website.

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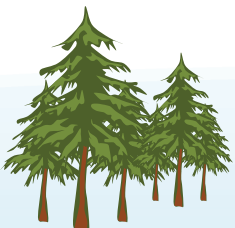
Thank you again for being a part of our ministry. If you haven't already, please check out our new website! We have updated it with new information and even an option to donate online!

## The Need for Providers Increases

As we continue to serve our community, times continue to change. Many Michigan Families are without healthcare and without the means to see a doctor. Medicaid is not able to cover the majority of these people, leaving them uninsured and at risk.

We are seeking to expand our hours and are in need of providers willing to give of their time, even if the most that they are able is 4 hours per month. 4 hours can make a difference to as many as 8 people in need.

Please join us as we pray and seek out healthcare providers that share the same vision and desire to serve these forgotten people.



## From the Desk of the Director

Wow! The days keep going and the people keep coming - it has been awhile since the April newsletter. The need for health care for the uninsured is still so great that every day we are open one-half to one-third of the people we serve are new clients. We here at Oasis of Hope Center count ourselves privileged to serve the underserved through healthcare. God continues to use this place mightily during the past nearly 4 years and since opening the latest count for client visits is over 7,300!

### Some highlights of events that have occurred since April:

Dan and I did an hour-long program called "Michigan Alive" on WJBT-TV on May 14. I think one or two people may have seen it.

We attended the Community of Christian Health Fellowship in Nashville, TN the end of May and were refreshed and encouraged by other healthcare providers "living out the gospel through healthcare to the poor".

Together we are learning about opportunities in the community where our clients can receive needed services. We are partnering with CORE Health through Spectrum Health Services and the Asthma Network to assist our clients in fine-tuning the treatments for their chronic disease.

A group of volunteers from Amway Corporation came for a day this summer and painted the front and back of our building. One of our faithful volunteers made new flower arrangements for the front to compliment the new paint- looks great!

## Over 7,300 client visits since 2006!

The middle of August we had our first pre-school and pre-participation sports physical exam day. We had wonderful volunteer participation but the response of the community was smaller than anticipated. We were, however, able to bless the children and the families that attended.

A similar response to our Annual Health Fair occurred during November. After months of preparation and anticipation, the response was greatly reduced from last year's attendance. Hansen Collision once again provided lunch and they were able to pass out 90 free hot dogs mostly due to the huge participation we had from GVSU's Physician Assistant, Nursing and Exercise Science Departments.

We received 350 free flu shot vouchers from CVS Pharmacies to provide our uninsured clients with the ability to be immunized against this year's influenza.

In November, West Grand Neighborhood Organization gave Oasis of Hope Center a Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Activities of Professional Partnerships and Concerns.

We are preparing to recognize all of our wonderful volunteers at a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner being held in January. We are so grateful for each of our volunteers and their willingness to serve God through healthcare to the uninsured.

We have received some generous donations that have enabled us to continue in this domestic medical mission. This year's donations are less than last year - the same report is echoed through all the charitable organizations. But our God has faithfully met our every need and our doors continue to remain open.

Continued...



## In Closing...

I would like to share my favorite “God Story” for this year and give each of you one small piece of what we see every day here at Oasis of Hope Center. One of our clients came in sometime last winter. He came right from the Kent County jail - newly released with no health insurance, no money and no medication. He was a rack of bones holding up some tattered clothing with hopelessness like a cloak around his shoulders. He was a very sick man and we were able to give him what we could to help him. He kept coming back, faithfully keeping his appointments and taking his medicine, until today his blood pressure is under control as well as his diabetes. We were even able to remove a large mass from his face enabling him to “have some family pictures taken”.

A couple of months ago he came in, a totally different person than the one who came in this winter and said, “You can call me brother now” - because he had given up drinking alcohol and given his life to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Thank you for all your prayer and financial support – without our faithful supporters and prayer warriors we would not be able to PROVIDE HOPE...IN JESUS’ NAME.

*- Barb*



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