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Students' Stories

Since Sept. is the traditional beginning of the school year, we wanted to include students' stories in this newsletter about what they've gained from volunteering at KC Free Health Clinic. It's clear from their stories that they are passionate about making a difference.

KC BeerFest 2008

KCBeerfest will be Sat, Sept. 27 at the Kansas City Power & Light District & Sat., Oct. 18 at the Legends at Village West. We still need volunteers to help both dates. Please contact Suzanne Lammert, suzannel@kcfree.org, if you wish to volunteer.

"It takes courage to push yourself to places that you have never been before...to test your limits...to break through barriers. And the day came when the risk it took to remain tight inside the bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom..." ~Anais Nin

Everyone Deserves Healthcare

Kayla B. volunteers at KC Free Health Clinic as a patient assistant. She describes her passion for volunteering:

"My greatest inspiration and one of my greatest motivations I have for becoming a physician has come from my volunteering experience at the Kansas City Free Health Clinic.

"The Clinic is in downtown Kansas City and provides free healthcare to the urban population.

"The patients who come to this clinic are of different races, religions, values, lan-

guages, and sexual preferences. I have been touched by listening to some of the patient's stories. Some patients come from disadvantaged backgrounds, while others have recently encountered hard times. They all have one thing in common—the need for free healthcare.

"The doctors who give up their time to volunteer at this clinic are inspirational to me. They take personal interest in their patients. It is the care and dedication to this underprivileged community that is inspiring.

"Everyone deserves healthcare regardless of income. Healthcare should not be withheld from those who cannot afford it. One of the lessons I have learned from The Clinic is we are all equal and we all need somebody to generally care.

"The Clinic has served as an inspiration to me. It has ignited my passion in my pursuit of a medical career. The Clinic is a place I want to come back to as a doctor and give back what has been given to me."



For the Love Of Helping People



A Cristo Rey High School student, Ricardo, volunteered with us last year compliments of a grant from West Central Missouri Area Health Education Center. He has this to say about his experience:

"My name is Ricardo 'A,' and I volunteer at the Kansas City Free Health Clinic. I do various tasks such as helping the front desk to check and register patients, answering phones, data entry, and pulling and filing back medical records.

"I enjoy volunteering at Kansas City Free Health Clinic because I get to learn so many things and meet a

lot of different people. It's wonderful to think that I work at a place where we help so many people. I hope to continue volunteering for many years to come."

Ricardo begged to come back to KC Free Health Clinic this year to volunteer, and we're happy to have him with us again one day every week.

Service Anniversaries

Congratulations to these volunteers who have service anniversaries in September. Thank you for your dedicated service.

9 Years:

Neil Mansuy, CATS Counselor

8 Years:

Al Biggs, MD, Gen Med Clinic, Board of Directors

Jan Liu, RN, Village Pres Clinic

5 Years:

Hani El-Halawany, Dental Student

1 Year:

Jason Arribas, Patient Assistant

Miral Patel, Patient Assistant

Sharif Wilson, Development

Facing Many Challenging Tasks

Another student volunteer, Susan P., has this observation:

“Last year I became a dental assistant at the Kansas City Free Health Clinic. There, I performed many tasks that I had observed in various dental offices, such as, sterilizing and preparing instrument trays, taking radiographs, making impressions, retracting and suctioning, assisting the dentist with

amalgam and composite fillings.

The Clinic required a faster pace than a typical practice because most of the patients required urgent care, having serious dental problems that had built up over a long time.

I faced many challenging tasks, for example, deciding the top priority at once, greeting patients and making

them feel comfortable, and immediately knowing what the dentist would need.

It was a thrilling experience for me and greatly fueled my enthusiasm for serving others and pursuing a career in dentistry.



Volunteer Highlight

He is a busy Pharmacy student, but Kyle Cline has nevertheless found more than 75 hours to volunteer with The Clinic during this year.

Since September 2007, Kyle has enjoyed seeing the smiles of patients as they receive their much needed medications, which many times they would not be able to afford.

Kyle had wanted to become involved in the community, and when he learned about the Kansas City Free Health Clinic from his professor

Dr. Patterson, Kyle thought The Clinic would be an excellent fit for him. Accord-



ing to Marian Dean, Kyle “never hesitates to jump in and help whether it’s filing paper work or filling pre-

scriptions.”

As a Pharmacy student and working part time at Shawnee Mission Medical Center, Kyle does not have much free time, but when he does find time he enjoys going to the lake, reading, and playing and watching sports.

Kyle is a member of Kappa Psi, a pharmacy fraternity, at UMKC. Kappa Psi has partnered with Kansas City Free Health Clinic on several occasions, and the members have completed special projects for The Clinic.

An Opportunity To Learn

Student volunteer, Audrey P. wrote this note of gratitude to The Clinic:

“Dear Dr McKean, Natalia, & Cynthia,

Thank you SO MUCH for making my experience at the dental clinic so awesome. I appreciate your patience

with my lack of knowledge at times and questions. This summer made me more sure that dentistry is the right career path. Hopefully I can come back next summer and volunteer more.

Thanks for the learning opportunity.

Clinic Featured In Recent AMA Foundation Article

The Kansas City Free Health Clinic was recently featured in an AMA Foundation article online.

The article highlights the importance of The Clinic as the largest provider of free medical care in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Additionally, the AMA story mentions a \$25,000 grant that The Clinic will receive for its Chronic Care Project.

You can read the article in its entirety at:

<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/18754.html>