



The Corner Continues to Serve, Thanks to You

FEATURES AND HIGHLIGHTS

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And Much More!

The Corner continues to serve youth through the COVID-19 crisis, adjusting our protocols and hours to make sure young people and their children have access to healthcare. Even in the midst of this historic pandemic, we know our young people still need the Corner to attend their ongoing medical concerns. Treatments for STIs, flu shots and vaccinations, contraceptives, prenatal visits, and many other medical needs cannot wait.

Your support is helping the Corner remain open and implement new methods of service delivery during this time. On the first day of the initial social-distancing directive, we enrolled the Corner in a telehealth program that allows patients to keep their appointments without leaving their home, bringing in only those patients who need in-person appointments. This is working so well, we are considering how it will increase access to care for our patients after the crisis, particularly for those with transportation challenges.

As of this writing, all patients must have an appointment to be seen (no walk-ins), which is helping us eliminate the need for patients to sit in the waiting room where they could be exposed to infection. Instead, patients are immediately placed in an exam room. We have a special exam room set up by our back entrance for patients who are exhibiting or reporting flu-like symptoms, preventing them from going through the clinic and risk spreading infection. We are not testing for COVID-19, but are sending patients who need testing to the hospital.

All our behavioral health patients are receiving their therapy through telemedicine. Our mental health program **Mood Lifters** has also moved to online conference meetings in order to keep on track. The current Mood Lifters patient class found the convenience and comfort of being face-to-face online so appealing, they requested to continue their conversation after the meeting, talking for an addition 90 minutes!

We are especially grateful to our multi-year and monthly donors, such as the **Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation** who provide reliable funding that allows us to respond to urgent needs in times like this. (See article inside.)

You are essential to delivering healthcare services to our youth during this crisis. Our operating income from billing will be greatly reduced because we are only seeing patients

with urgent needs, scheduling all others for future dates. Billing policies for telehealth are being evaluated, and the Corner does not turn anyone away because of insurance status. The remote services that we are implementing also have subscription and equipment costs. **Your financial support makes it possible for us to continue our work through this unprecedented crisis.**

The Corner is prepared to provide healthcare service to youth throughout this crisis, no matter how long it takes. **Thank you for making this possible.**

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If you would like to make a gift to the Corner to help sustain us through this crisis, please use the envelope enclosed, or make your gift online at www.cornerhealth.org. Thank you!
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OUR MISSION:

The mission of the Corner Health Center is to inspire 12- to 25-year-olds (and their children) to achieve and sustain healthy lives by providing judgment-free, affordable health and wellness care and education.

DEAR CORNER SUPPORTER



I hope this newsletter finds you and your family safe and in good health. The mission we share to inspire young people to be healthy continues at the Corner through these challenging times. Our staff is doing an outstanding job of changing and creating new ways to serve youth during the COVID-19 crisis. Even with such a devastating virus, the more routine healthcare needs of our young people and their children must also be addressed.

Thanks to you and your support, we are able to carry on. We continue to work on the projects and goals outlined in our strategic plan, confident we will survive this crisis.

Just prior to the shut downs due to COVID-19, our Community Outreach and Youth Development Manager, Kamilah Davis-Wilson, our board member Kim Ross and I attended the **School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan (SCHA-MI) Advocacy Day** in Lansing. The Corner is part of SCHA-MI as an accredited school-linked Child and Adolescent Health Care provider (CAHC). We met with key senators and representatives with the focus on preserving and increasing funding for child and adolescent health centers in the FY2021 State Budget - School Aid Budget. SCHA-MI provided an outline of key health initiatives, including mental health, to discuss with our representatives.

Postponed to fall is our **Young Men's Mental Health Summit – Beyond the Words**. This day-long program is for teen males to help them become advocates for mental health among their peers. This is in collaboration with Alpha Kappa Psi –AAYI Chapter Fraternity and their youth group, Kappa League. We are also a full participant in Washtenaw County's **#WishYouKnew** initiative to open dialogue between teens and adults on mental health. During this time, our outreach efforts have moved to online and social media sources to keep in touch with our youth.

Due to these extraordinary circumstances, I ask you to consider an extra gift to the Corner to help us through this time. Our income is impacted in many ways due to the crisis (see our cover story), and your help now will allow us to respond today while keeping an eye on our goals for the future. A gift envelope is included, or you may make your gift securely online at www.cornerhealth.org.

Thank you, please be sure to stay safe and shelter in place. We will get through this together.

Versell Smith, Jr., Executive Director

Corner Health Center Board of Directors 2020

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Joan Chesler*, PhD Founding Executive Director
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* In Memorial



**Your gift today
gives our youth
a healthier tomorrow!**
www.cornerhealth.org



Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation
Supporting Healthy Youth at the Corner for 40 Years

The Towsley Foundation has been an important Corner partner since our founding in 1981. Harry Towsley, a pediatrician, generously supported our founder, Joan Chesler, to get the Corner on its feet. He and his wife, Margaret continued to support Joan and the Corner throughout our evolution, including the purchase and renovation of the three buildings that now serve as the Corner Health Center in Ypsilanti.

“Harry and Margaret were very warm and open-hearted in their appreciation of the mission, vision and values of the Corner,” remembers David Share, founding medical director of the Corner. Del Dunbar, President of the Towsley Foundation explains, “The Foundation established by Dr. and Mrs. Towsley has a mission to improve the lives of people and communities. We feel our support of the Corner reflects their spirit of strengthening effective organizations.”

In 2016, the Towsley Foundation made a remarkable pledge of \$200,000 over five years in unrestricted support to the Corner. “What makes the Towsley Foundation’s giving unique is their

willingness to provide multi-year, unrestricted support,” explains Corner Executive Director, Versell Smith. “Knowing we have this gift over five years allows us to plan and innovate.”

This is their second multi-year pledge, the first was to support the purchase and transformation of our third building on N. Huron Street in Ypsilanti. The three buildings together comprise the current Corner Health Center clinic and offices. In honor of their generosity, the large conference room at the Corner is named the Towsley Conference Center, a hub for our youth groups, staff, and volunteers daily.

Outreach, youth development, and health education programs at the Corner are 100% funded through donor support. Multi-year support like this is helping to develop a long-term plan for our Summer Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program with year-round health educational and cooking programs. This funding also allows us to be nimble in critical times such as these, enabling us to implement telemedicine and teleconferencing to meet the health needs of our youth without interruption.

We are grateful to Harry and Margaret Towsley and the legacy of giving they established at the Corner. They are helping generations of young people become healthier adults who are raising healthier families.

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You may make your multi-year pledge to the Corner by contacting Paula Brown, CFRE, at 734-714-2251 or pbrown@cornerhealth.org. You may also set up a recurring gift through our website at www.cornerhealth.org.

Gifts in Tribute

October 1, 2019 to March 30, 2020

Thank you for thinking of the Corner for these special recognitions.

In Honor of Tavi Alexander
Katherine Gold

In Honor of Dr. Delores Garcia
Linda Heiberger

In Honor of UMHS Nurses and Midwives
Joanne Bailey

In Honor of Lori Bennett
Michael and Lesa Huget

In Honor of Miriam and Andrew Leo
*Alison Kinnear
 Anne and Harvey Leo*

In Honor of Dr. Patricia Wells
Mary Norris

In Honor of Dr. Jack Billi
Swartz Family Charitable Fund

In Honor of Ken & Suzanne McQueen Heise
Anne Heise

In Memory of Joan Chesler
*Barbara Israel
 Joel Saper*

In Honor of Dr. Jack Billi & Versell Smith, Jr.
Deborah and Norman Herbert

In Honor of RCI
Linda Nyquist

In Memory of Aunt Mary Hunt Patterson
Tierney Hunt

In Honor of Neil Cole-Filipiak
Mary Cole

In Honor of Dr. David Share
Joel Saper

In Honor of The Cureton Family
*Lisa and James R. Baker
 Mrs. Maryanne George*

In Honor of David and Kate Share
Ashley and Jon Oberheide

In Honor of Cathy Dries
Anonymous

In Honor of Sarah Sutton
Jennifer and Samuel Jalet



CELEBRATING THE CORNER, OCTOBER 2019

At our annual Celebrate the Corner reception in October 2019, hosted by Zingerman's Roadhouse, we honored individuals who have donated to the Corner for more than 30 years. Also honored was Dr. David Share, founding medical director of the Corner, with a presentation by Mark Chesler, husband of founder Joan Chesler. Corner board members and staff expressed our gratitude to those who have been with us from the start. Executive Director Versell Smith

shared all the good work being done today to help 12- to 25-year-olds (and their children) grow into healthy adults and raise healthy families.

The total funds given by this group of donors over the years is nearly \$700,000, in addition to their hours of volunteer time. Their loyalty and commitment is why the Corner is here today. Thank you!



Cheryl Taylor and Debra Dill are greeted by Versell Smith



30+ year supporters Kay and Tom Robins with Dr. David Share



30+ year supporters Carol Hoffer with Nancy Margolis, Raymond Cleary and Sean Duvall



Paul Saginaw and Bill Manns



Dr. David Share receiving recognition award from Mark Chesler



Alfreda Rooks with Claire Potocki and Jonathan Edwards

THANKS TO YOU!

Thanks to **The Carls Foundation**, the Corner has a new power generator to assure the refrigerators and freezers in our lab (where we store our vaccines) and the Corner Store (which hold our fresh foods and protein) are protected from power outages.

We thank the **Galens Medical Society** for their grant to purchase vital supplies that help babies grow and thrive. This is part of the Corner's initiative to **reduce infant mortality in Washtenaw County**.

We are grateful to **Washtenaw Health Plan** and **University of Michigan Community Health Services** for their continued support of our Behavioral Health programs and services to help meet the overwhelming demand in Washtenaw County.

Thanks to **Mericos Foundation**, our Mom Power launched a new class this spring. It is on hiatus during the COVID crisis, but will resume once it is safe for the moms and babies to attend.

Thank you to **Coordinated Funders of Washtenaw County** for their continued support of the Corner clinic, serving more than 1,600 young people (and their children) each year.

Thank you to all our 2019 **Giving Tuesday donors** who contributed more than \$14,000 for our Outreach and Youth Development Programs! A special thanks to **Zingerman's Community of Business** for their challenge grant which really helped us surpass our goal!



YOU CAN HELP WITH YOUR GIFT TODAY

Even in the middle of a pandemic, our young people need access to affordable care for urgent health conditions.

Your gift today will assure they continue to receive the care they've come to rely on.

You may use the envelope enclosed, or visit www.cornerhealth.org to make your gift securely online.

If you have included the Corner in your will, please let us know! Contact Paula Brown, CFRE at pbrown@cornerhealth.org or 734-714-2251.

THANK YOU CORNER VOLUNTEERS!

April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month, and at the Corner, volunteers are vital members of our family! They serve as members of our board. They hold drives to fill the Corner Store for our youth. They clean our clinic. They represent the Corner at Outreach events.

We could not do what we do, if it weren't for your generous donations of time and talent. Thank you!

If you would like information on how to volunteer or organize a drive for the Corner, please contact Ava Ohlgren at aohlgren@cornerhealth.org or 734-714-2237.



Nancy Margolis, volunteer since 1980



Board volunteers Jason Bell and Anthony Beasley with Linda Johnson



Denise Leonard helping in the Corner Store



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