

NHCAC MONTHLY SCOOP

April & May News & Events

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NHCAC HEALTH CENTER 25TH ANNIVERSARY

North Hudson Community Action Corporation health center celebrated its 25th anniversary on Saturday, May 18, 2019 at the Liberty Science Center. With over 250 attendees and all of our partner hospitals present, it was truly a night to remember!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A quarter century ago the concept of Federally Qualified Health Centers wasn't well known.

Across the country, many government officials didn't bother to learn about the idea, but in Hudson County, the late Michael Leggiere was able to persuade mayors and other leaders that their low-income residents desperately needed health care they couldn't afford to pay for. The mayors agreed to back him as he set up Hudson's first FQHC in Union City.

But Mike knew it would take more than just political support from local officials and financial support from the federal government to be successful.

He needed clinical support, as well. He turned to Jorge Vereia, M.D.

Back then, area hospitals either ignored his efforts or viewed the FQHC as a possible competitor. Only one hospital and one physician dared to help. Then called Palisades General, the administration and medical staff of that North Bergen institution became North Hudson's first clinical partner.

Not without some trepidation, however. Palisades officials and physicians were taking a risk, dealing with that upstart FQHC, not really knowing how it might affect health care in their community.

Fortunately – for everyone! – it turned out well, fostering a strong and valuable partnership that continues to this day, improving the health of thousands of area residents, and setting a pattern for innovative collaborations with other hospitals in Hudson, Bergen and Passaic County.

North Hudson Community Action Corporation now has 10 health centers and serves more than 70,000 people a year, working closely with hospitals near each health center.

We sincerely thank Palisades and all our partner hospitals. Every member of our partnership family is precious, as is every life we strive to improve through our joint efforts to give area residents exactly the kind of health care they need at every stage of life in an efficient and compassionate manner.

And we sincerely thank the trustees of the North Hudson Community Action Foundation to raise awareness of our health, educational and social service programs and to raise funds to supplement funding for those programs and to initiate new sites and services. The Trustee partners are also vital to success, and we promise all to continue our mission to assist our low-income neighbors in every way we can.

Joan M. Quigley
President & CEO

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HE HAD A VISION...

Michael A. Leggiere
1947 – 2005

It was 1993. All was going well with the NHCAC programs. It was about this time that Michael Leggiere had a vision that the North Hudson residents were about to encounter great difficulty in obtaining health care coverage. When he received notice of an initiative by NJ Senator Codey to have private non-profit hospitals partner with not-for-profit organizations to put together plans to provide ambulatory care, he knew that was the answer. So in 1993 the NHCAC partnered with the Palisade Medical Center. They aligned their Boards of Directors, sought the help of consultants and put together a proposal to take the first steps in establishing a state-of-art community health center. Mr. Leggiere wanted to make sure he was leading the NHCAC down the right path so he prayed to the Lord for direction. He received the

words "Build it and they will come." With these words in his heart and faith in God, Mr. Leggiere continued to work with his Board of Directors and management team and with the help of the Palisades Medical Center to "build" the NHCAC Health Center. In 1994, the Health Center opened its doors, the people came in large numbers and they are still coming.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Lois Leggiere



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Visions of Hope Gala

North Hudson Community Action Corporation was honored at the Diabetes Foundation, Vision's of Hope Gala on Wednesday, May 1st, 2019 at the Venetian. The award to NHCAC was accepted by our very own Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Flordeliz Panem. Since 2018 our partnership with the Diabetes Foundation has grown and continues to thrive thanks to our employees!



Community Health Fair



City of Passaic Community Health Fair

On April 28, 2019 North Hudson Community Action Corporation supported the city of Passaic's Annual Resource Fair last Sunday at the Passaic Indoor Facility. Over local community vendors and resources were offered. We thank Mayor Hector Lora for his continued support of our Passaic Health Center! We look forward to taking part in future Passaic events!



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Board of Directors May Meeting at HCST

On Tuesday, May 21st, 2019 NHCAC held its monthly Board of Directors meeting at the Hudson County School of Technology beautiful campus located at 1 High Tech Way in Secaucus! We thank our Board Chairman, Joseph M. Muniz for the tour and invite. At this meeting we also celebrated the birthday of Board Member, Linda Habermann and presented the Diabetes Award to our CMO, Dr. Flordeliz Panem.



14th Annual Michael A. Leggiero Memorial Golf Classic Save the Date



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Patient/Client Compliments May 2019



Passaic:

Keisy B. ,Registration Clerk is wonderful! Everything was perfect because of Keisy. I learned many useful things.

Thank you for the caring attention from the employees at North Hudson Passaic. The receptionist, nurses and doctors all provided excellent service. Cleanliness, friendliness and professionalism. Thank you!

Garfield:

This site is the best. Better service and the best people working here!

Jersey City:

Patient called to compliment Alexa R., Registration Supervisor. She stated, Alexa was very friendly, lovely and helpful with her and all the patients at the registration and wants to make sure Alexa gets recognition for the great hard work and for being a lovely person. Alexa helped the patient the same day and she treated her with love and helped her right away with no attitude. "Thank you Alexa for being like an angel," patient said.

Dental:

A patient called to compliment Dr. Deborah, DDS. He stated he was very thankful for her professionalism, and beyond impressed with her work ethic. Added on with saying she was incredible, friendly and kind.

Lastly mentioned he is looking forward to continue being a patient of hers.

