

# *Highlights of Accomplishments – 2007*

## *Acute/Primary Care*

- Launched **Get Serious About Asthma Control** to mitigate the effects of asthma in elementary school children. Developing a local clearinghouse of resources; working with four schools to provide additional tools including equipment, education and ways to track the impact.

*Thanks to the **Park Foundation** and the **Community Foundation** for asthma program support.*

- Expanded **Urgent Rx** to the Ithaca Free Clinic and people discharged from Cayuga Medical Center inpatient units. UrgentRx offers free generic medications, from a limited formulary, to people with no insurance who receive care at the new sites or at CMC's Emergency Room and its Lansing Urgent Care facility. Also gave follow-up information about other health care subsidy programs. Over the past year, have provided 1,658 prescriptions valued at about \$39,000 to more than 760 people.

Kudos to Urgent Rx partners: *Cayuga Medical Center, Kinney Drugs, Tompkins Health Network, and United Way of Tompkins County.*

- Based on local data, represented the needs of uninsured people via op-eds, NYS hearing testimony, chart with gaps in health insurance coverage and contributed to special coverage in *The Ithaca Journal*.

## **Long Term Care**

- Advocated for the community's need to maintain Lakeside Nursing and Rehabilitation Center services; protested the **Berger Commission** recommendation to close Lakeside, which would displace over 160 current residents. Supported the proposed conversion of 80 beds to assisted living program beds. NYS decisions are still pending.
- Led **Sharing Your Wishes** Coalition to encourage and support advanced health care planning. Enhanced skills of more than 45 health care professionals and volunteers, distributed over 9,000 booklets, and gave presentations to senior groups and employees including "Talking with your family about your wishes."
- Started phase one of our **Long Term Care Needs Assessment**. Identified existing providers and services, surveyed consumers and residential providers.

## **Advisory Board**

- Organized **presentations** on older adults with mental illness, pain management initiatives and other current topics.
- Participated in the *Statewide Rural Aging Summit* sponsored by NYS legislators, Ithaca College Gerontology Institute and others.
- Helped the County Legislature administer **TompkinsRx**, a free card for prescription discounts. More than 750 users a month have saved over \$248,000 annually, an average of 21%. Distributed cards to medical offices, pharmacies, agencies and individuals.

- Helped develop a pamphlet on *Support for Smokers Who Want to Quit* as part of the T-Free Zone Coalition of Tompkins County.

*Special appreciation* to the Tompkins County Legislators for their ongoing support.

**Tompkins Health Network implementation projects:**

- PMAP (Prescription Meds Access Program): Counseled over 200 clients about **prescription medicines**; helped people obtain drugs valued at over \$50,000, free from pharmaceutical companies or at low-cost.
- **Get Covered Info Line:** Started a health insurance info phone line in May; provided help to more than 165 people to date.
- **Health Careers Awareness:** Partnering with others to institute *My Health Careers*: a web-based tool with required training, salaries, and regional job opportunities. To be operational in 2008.
- **Get Healthy Tompkins:** Celebrated the launch of this on-line tool for healthy living; provided support for this Cayuga Medical Center project.

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