

# The Center for Community Health Development

## *Celebrating 10 years of Accomplishments*

APRIL 2011



*Members of the Burleson County Health Resource Commission dedicate the new BHRC building, April 2011*

## Local Outposts to Improve Access for Rural Residents

Established in 2002, the Brazos Valley Health Partnership took on as its first initiative a strategy to address poor access to care for rural residents of the Brazos Valley region. Supported through a Healthy Community Access Program grant received by the Center for Community Health Development, the project focused on development of “one-stop shops” in rural communities in which facilities were donated and providers could deliver services locally with low or no overhead costs. These facilities, referred to as “health resource centers,” co-located a variety of providers and offered support services for clients.

The initial grant provided seed funding that resulted in establishment of five health resources centers: the Madison Health Resource Center located in Madisonville, the Burleson Health Resource Centers located in Caldwell and Somerville, the Leon Health Resource Center located in Centerville and the Grimes Health Resource Center located in Navasota. Health resource commissions in each county, formally appointed by the county commissioners’ court, provide oversight for each center, and are responsible for local planning, implementation, and evaluation of health activities.

### **Total Services Provided**

During program years 2004 through 2010, the five health resource centers provided the following:

- ◆ **29,032** encounters,
- ◆ **29,154** information and referrals, and
- ◆ **17,668** rides given.

*“If these services were not ever available to the people in our community, many elderly, as well as others, would be greatly affected.”*

*— Health Resource Center volunteer*



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## Local Outposts to Improve Access for Rural Residents, continued



*Leon County Health Fair, 2009*

Each health resource center is unique, ranging from an office suite in a local hospital's professional building to a three-bedroom home that was originally donated to the local school district and then modified. Equally unique, the services delivered at the centers are based upon each community's specific service needs and resources available.

One offers podiatry services. Another one operates a senior home delivered meal program and hosts an audiologist once a week. A center offers anger management and parenting classes while yet another shares its facility with a federally qualified health center. Common services include information and referrals to other regional and local providers; case management; legal aid; utility assistance, and medication assistance to name a few.

One of the most frequently utilized services is the health resource centers' transportation program, which offers free rides to health-related destinations such as the doctor's office, pharmacy, grocery store, senior centers, and to church functions. Transportation continues to be a major barrier in rural residents' accessing care, as identified in the 2002, 2006, and 2010 Brazos Valley Health Assessments.



*Ribbon cutting for the Grimes Health Resource Center, 2010*



*Madisonville Health Resource Center Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, 2010*

Each of the five centers continues to expand its reach and increase its partnerships with providers as each community broadens its understanding of and support for their local health resource centers. All five resource centers are supported locally, mostly by multiple organizations from a hospital district to county government to city government but also through local donations of funds and in-kind resources, and grants to support services.

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