

DRIVING TOWARDS HEALTH EQUITY

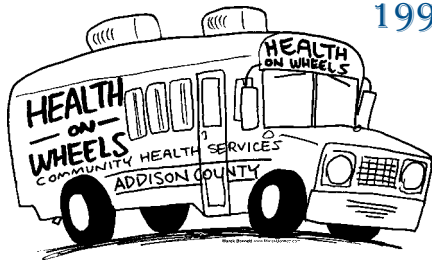
OPEN DOOR CLINIC PLANS TO EXPAND MODEL OF CARE WITH NEW VAN

FOR OVER 12 YEARS, the Open Door Clinic has been providing health screenings and medical care on farms during fall flu vaccination clinics. While we have been able to bring a provider out to the farms periodically, the lack of privacy and confidential space to allow for a full assessment and exam have presented barriers to delivering the best of care.

We are excited to share that we are in the initial steps of purchasing a mobile health van which will allow us to more effectively meet our patients needs while working

ODC'S VEHICLES OVER THE TIME

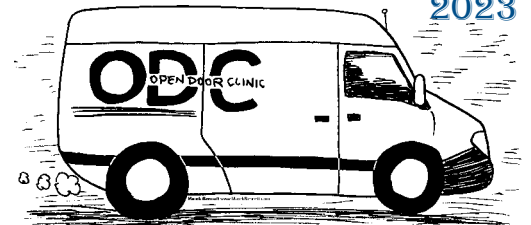
1991



2020



2023



Art by Marek Bennett
www.MarekBennett.com

with greater independence in the field. A Burlington-based company, CHC Vans, will be in charge of retrofitting a new 21' sprinter van that we will be able to purchase through a special donor gift and a health equity grant through the Vermont Department of Health.

Through our years of experience, we have identified that workers face various unique barriers to receiving adequate health care for both acute and chronic conditions, for example foregoing potential pay to attend medical visits and having little to no access to transportation to get to their appointments.

For Heidi Sulis, ODC's Executive Director, the pandemic underscored this dynamic. "Our providers saw this repeatedly last year as we aggressively made our way around the county providing vaccine clinics. Volunteer

doctors Chris Grace, MD and Linn Larson, MD, for example, saw many patients during those clinics, when workers asked for them to take a look at their rash, or bad knee, or eye that had been bothering them for days," she explains. "By providing medical care at a time and place when and where workers are available, they will avoid delaying care that could both exacerbate an acute problem or chronic condition."

As we observe changes within the migrant community, where some workers are moving away from agriculture to hospitality and the food industry, we realize there are now

concentrations of workers in geographic areas that preclude them from easily getting to us. Our new specially-equipped van, which we hope to be in action by the summer 2023, will be another tool that will allow us greater capacity when thinking about how, when and where to best and most appropriately serve and treat our patients.

"The new van will allow us to incorporate the social determinants of health in our outreach and maximize our efforts to address them by having space to transport and distribute seasonal clothing and dried goods as well as fresh fruits and vegetables received through our partnership with HOPE's gleaning project," adds Julia Doucet, ODC's Outreach Nurse. "We will be able to add new services, such as a monthly outreach day of scheduled clinic visits and quarterly dental screenings at various places of business. The new van will be instrumental in increasing our capacity."

WHAT IS NEW

PEOPLE, SPACE, PROGRAMS

WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE the addition of a new team member! As of August 2022, M. Fernanda Canales is ODC's Dental Coordinator.

Born in Argentina of Chilean parents, Fernanda came to the US as a 14-year-old non-English speaker. Her extended family still resides in Chile. For the past 39 years, Fernanda has been an educator and school administrator in the public schools, with 32 of those years spent in Vermont schools.

Fernanda and her husband, Chad, raised two children in Vermont and now are enjoying spending time with two grandchildren. She enjoys traveling, hiking and cross-country skiing. Fernanda enjoys the opportunity to speak Spanish and to be of service to others. Welcome to the Open Door Clinic, Fernanda!



M. Fernanda Canales
Dental Coordinator



Dental Extern

Stanley Chan, a fourth-year student at UNE College of Dental Medicine, joined the ODC in November and will be seeing our dental patients once a week through December. Gretchen Dunn, RDH, ODC's Dental Hygienist (left), and Fernanda Canales, ODC's Dental Coordinator (right), welcome Stanley on his first day in action.



We have a new office!

In August, we moved to a new trailer across the way. We had a great time decorating the space together as a team. We want to thank Porter Medical Center for providing us with this renovated space, and supporting our maintenance needs! Come visit us!



Photo by Courtesy Photo for
The Middlebury Campus



Community Loss

On September 7, 2022, Raquel Albarrán passed away. Raquel was Middlebury College's Assistant Professor of Luso-Hispanic Studies and over the past year volunteered many hours to assess ODC interpreters' level of Spanish skills. Her family kindly suggested memorial gifts in her honor be made to the ODC.



Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op donated a gift certificate to be used for nurturing snacks at ODC's new Women's Support Group Meeting, led by ODC's Administrative Assistant, Alysse Anton.



Karen Lawson (center) gifts the Open Door Clinic \$14,887, collected during Lawson's Finest's fundraiser campaign. From 8/1 to 8/15, 100% of the donations received from their taproom guests and through their online store was allocated to the ODC.

**Thank
You!**



Turtle Fur donated 100 hats and Darn Tough donated 30 pair of socks that have been distributed by ODC's Outreach Nurse, Julia Doucet, RN, and the volunteer outreach team.



Skida donated 200 alpine hats, alpine neck warmers, and bandits, which are now available to our patients at ODC's *Mercado Libre* ("Free Market").

**SO FAR IN 2022, YOUR
IMPACT HAS HELPED US:**



See 1044 patients, including 264 new patients



Provide 1373 health care visits and 250 dental visits



Provide 199 VHC consults, enroll 65 individuals into Medicaid and 50 into Blue Cross & Blue Shield or MVP



Visit 34 farms and orchards, providing health screenings, 319 COVID booster shots, 321 flu shots, and many medical visits with an MD

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Via check

Open Door Clinic
100 Porter Drive
Middlebury, VT 05753

On Facebook

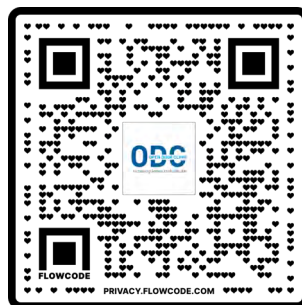
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THANK YOU FOR OPENING THE DOOR!

A FAREWELL REFLECTION



I WILL NEVER FORGET that hug. We were into our fifth month on our continental *from home para casa* road trip, that started in Vermont and would end in São Paulo, Brazil. It was January 2017, and as soon as I saw her waiting for us with the gate to her house open, I recognized her, even if it was the first time we met. Salomé showed us where to park, closed the gate, and gave me a tight hug, while saying: "Welcome! I feel I am somehow also hugging my daughter." It brought tears to my eyes.

I met Salomé's daughter because she is a patient at the Open Door Clinic. When I asked her if she thought we could visit her parents — who she hasn't seen for more than a decade — during our stay in Mexico, she immediately connected me with them. It was one of the most special moments of our 11-month trip.



The stories I heard from our patients were a big part of the reason why I wanted to spend time in Mexico. My long-awaited trip then became a fundraiser for the ODC. Our goal was to raise \$1 per km we drove.

Over the 8 years I worked for the Open Door Clinic, I experienced many special moments like that hug. It was my first experience working at a non-profit, or with volunteers,

or in healthcare. I had been living in Vermont for one year when I saw the job posting on Front Porch Forum and decided to apply. I remember clearly that

day, back in the fall of 2013 when the clinic opened its door for me for the first time when I arrived for my interview. I am SO grateful I was given the opportunity to work for such an amazing organization, learn so much, and meet friends that I will have for life. At the time, we were a team of five. It's impressive what a small team is able to achieve when it's in the right community, with the right partners, generous donors, and dedicated volunteers. I saw the team more than double capacity, and I continue to be amazed by everything this small, but mighty, organization is capable of. In the biggest capitalist nation in the world, I never got tired of seeing people give not only financial resources, but equally valuable, their own time, something that everyone complains about not having.

Being away from home myself, I identified with the stories I heard from patients. And when they said the ODC was like a family to them, I agreed. Working at the ODC, I encountered wonderful people who generously welcomed me in each of their own worlds and communities, sharing with me exactly what I needed since I left Brazil.

Thank you, all people of Open Door Clinic, for being part of these nurturing eight years. As it turns out, I decided to stay in Vermont for longer than the two years I initially planned, and it was in big part because of you.

I hope to see you around and, all conditions permitting, share a wave, a handshake, or even better, a big hug.

Be well,

Chris
Christiane Kokubo



Locals embark on American odyssey

Starksboro couple is driving to Brazil, raising money for Open Door Clinic



CHRISTIANE KOKUBO, left, with her husband, Nathan Stewart, poses with their hosts in Vera Cruz, Mexico, during their trek across two continents. (Our World, Page 14)

ODC's volunteer appreciation in 2015; ODC staff in 2015; Heidi and Chris present at Ben & Jerry's in 2016; Chris and Nate's trip made it to the cover of the Addison Independent in 2017. On the right: Memorial Day Parade in 2018; ODC staff with a special guest in December 2020; and a staff picture in November 2022