

# INNOVATIONS INNOVATIONS



Partners in Care

FOUNDATION

changing the shape of health care

June 2007

## Enhancing the Health of Older Adults: Partners Named Program Center for Major AoA Wellness Grant

California's older adults will now receive help to learn to better manage their chronic conditions to remain active, healthier and independent at home and avoid falls. An initial \$850,000, three year grant to fund community programs was recently awarded by the federal Administration on Aging (AoA) to the California Department on Aging (CDA), one of 16 states to receive these grants. Partners in Care, which worked closely with California's successful Department on Aging effort, has been named Program Center for the statewide initiative. The project begins with an initial five counties introducing new programs before expanding statewide.

The grant is a collaboration between CDA, the Department of Health Services, local Area Agencies on Aging, and more than 30 local health and non-profit organizations in Los Angeles, San Diego, Fresno, Madera and Sonoma counties, home to 40 percent of the state's 3.5 million seniors. More than 6,000 low-income, frail seniors, especially those in underserved communities where the rate of arthritis, heart disease, and diabetes is high, are expected to enroll in health promotion programs that address chronic disease self-care, exercise, nutrition and diet, medication management, depression and fall prevention.

"The well-tested evidence with proven results demonstrates that increased physical activity has the greatest impact in managing, controlling and even reversing moderate to severe chronic conditions," notes June Simmons, president and CEO of Partners.

"Coupled with education and self-care tools, older adults can better identify and understand their health risks and make lifestyle changes to incorporate into their daily routines that will enhance their health, well-being, and ability to remain independently at home."

Partners will coordinate the implementation of two new evidence-based programs, A Matter of Balance, a falls prevention program, and the Stanford University Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP). The program will also disseminate Partners' Medication Management Improvement System, which discovers and remedies dangerous medication problems, and *Healthy Moves*, which increases physical activity levels of frail, older adults at home. All of the programs will be offered in English and Spanish.

\$1.7 million in complementary private and foundation funding has been raised to support the initiative's efforts. These matching funds come from Sonoma County hospitals, Kaiser Permanente, The John A. Hartford Foundation for Medication Management, and the Archstone Foundation and The California Endowment for Healthy Moves.

"The public-private partnership is a change in how health and social service agencies help seniors cope with chronic conditions," explains Ms. Simmons. "Staying healthier longer at home aligns perfectly with Partners' core mission in aging."

## Leadership of Lloyd H. Dean, Catholic Healthcare West president/CEO, Honored at Partners' 2007 Vision & Excellence in Healthcare Leadership Tribute Dinner

*Read more in the  
Special Tribute Dinner Insert inside*

*Lloyd Dean (left) receives Partners' 2007 Mathies Award, given by his close personal friend, The Honorable Willie Brown, Jr., former Speaker of the California Assembly and former Mayor of San Francisco.*



## Additional Grants Extend Benefits of Partners' Work

**In a series of new grants to Partners, more individuals and groups will receive the benefits of Partners' programs.**

### **Kaiser Community Benefit Grant to Educate More Older Adults**

Kaiser Community Benefit recently awarded \$50,000 to the statewide California Department on Aging initiative for which Partners in Care is the Program Center. The grant is to bring its evidence-based, self-management programs for chronic disease to older adults through age-based organizations such as senior centers, senior housing sites, and faith-based organizations. The program educates older adults about the importance of lifestyle changes as a major factor in improving their health and quality of life.

### **Nine Families Assisted by Change A Life Foundation**

A private foundation has awarded over \$34,000 to Family Care Network on behalf of nine clients. This generous award will be allocated toward critical resources to improve clients' quality of life and enable them to live comfortably, independently, and safely at home. Examples of how the funds will be used include: vehicle modifications to enable homebound children to ride to school and medical appointments without the risk of injury or fall; a heating unit for an elderly couple experiencing the cold winter; and a bathroom modification to ensure safe and comfortable bathing for a wheelchair bound older adult, among other needs. Family Care Network steps in to provide assistance where no other resources are available.

*To donate to Family Care Network, please use the attached envelope and specify FCN on your check or visit [www.picf.org](http://www.picf.org) and click on donations.*

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## A Memorable Evening; Memorable Supporters



By all accounts, the glowing success of Partners' Tribute Dinner honoring Lloyd Dean as this year's distinguished Mathies Award recipient heartened the capacity audience to continue to seek new solutions to the complex issues of change.

Eight years ago, Partners established its annual Vision & Excellence in Healthcare Leadership Tribute Dinner to recognize the vital role leadership plays in initiating and developing change in healthcare so that it works better for everyone. The annual Mathies Award calls attention to specific healthcare leaders who have made or are making positive changes for their stakeholders and for the healthcare community as models of care to emulate.

We especially salute and thank our event sponsors for their generous contributions: Catholic Healthcare West, Walgreens, Kaiser Permanente, CHW/Northridge Medical Center, and the law firm of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP, as well as the many other organizations and individuals who, by their donations and presence, also demonstrated a keen understanding of Partners mission and of the power of collaborating to solve complex issues. Your support of Partners is meaningful; the impact to be felt far ahead.

Sincerely,



**Adrian Stern**

Chair, Board of Directors

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## New and Noted:

### **High Praise for Partners' Two MSSPs and Teams**

After completing a Utilization Review from California Department of Aging auditors, Partners' North and South "Life is Better at Home"/ Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) received top marks and high praise for its best practices, quality care for clients and for the excellence in its patient care and documentation. Partners contracts with the State to provide a variety of health and social services for low-income, frail seniors in Los Angeles. Well-deserved congratulations to both MSSP teams!

### **Partners' Widening Recognition**

June Simmons, president and CEO of Partners, has been appointed

Chair for the California Community Choices Advisory Council, a federally funded five year project to help re-design the State's long-term care system and enhance access to alternative sources of care, a goal in line with Partners' strategic objectives in policy leadership and impact.

Also, in recognition of social innovation, June Simmons was named a finalist in the first Purpose Prize from Civic Ventures, a think tank and program incubator to achieve the greatest return on experience funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies and the John Templeton Foundation. The Purpose Prize invests in Americans who are leading a new age of solving some of society's most pressing problems.

# Investing in Tomorrow's Leaders: Interns Launch Careers at Partners

*Training Tomorrow's Leaders: Interns at Partners Gain Valuable Insights, Career Experience*

In 2000, Partners initiated and led the Geriatric Social Work Education Consortium (GSWEC), the first regional collaboration between Southern California's five graduate schools of social work and eight key agencies serving the elderly. The aim – to attract the best and the brightest to geriatric social services, provide practical field work, and engage in the broader policy aspects in aging services. An estimated 70,000 geriatric social workers will be needed by 2020; yet, only about 3% of current MSW (Masters of Social Work) candidates enter this high-demand, immensely rewarding field.

"The John A. Hartford Foundation, our initial funder, and GSWEC foresaw the crushing need for real-world experience for MSW's specializing in geriatrics, given the imminent tidal wave of our area's enormously diverse aging population," said June Simmons, president and CEO of Partners. "With additional support from the Archstone Foundation, MSW's increase their competencies across the broad spectrum of aging issues to better serve their clients."

Drawing from MSW candidates at USC, UCLA, and the California State Universities, Los Angeles, Long Beach and Northridge, 35 students intern for credit with stipends provided for their service. As one of eight Centers of Excellence, Partners, the lead agency facilitating GSWEC, hosts about six students annually. Here, previous and current interns and one volunteer recount their experiences:

## **Contacts Made Valuable to Career:**

### **Adriana Mendoza, MSW**

"The practical field experiences and connecting with people in aging during my internship laid a valuable foundation for launching my career," recounts Ms. Mendoza who now is the Associate State Director for AARP California Central Coast Region. She first interned in the Government Relations department of AltaMed



*Explaining Medicare benefits to a senior group is Adriana Mendoza, a former GSWEC intern who now works at AARP.*

Health Services, a GSWEC agency, and then, after receiving her MSW with an emphasis in gerontology from UCLA, worked in its Marketing and Long Term Care department. At AARP, she is deeply involved in issues of aging, ranging from economic security

to housing and healthcare. "The internship made all the difference in preparing me for a career I love."

## **From Intern to Increasing Responsibilities:**

### **Jennifer Wieckowski, MSG**

With her grandparents as inspiration for electing a career in gerontology, the then USC Andrus Gerontology Center, student Jennifer Wieckowski, came to a Partners internship four years ago for the opportunity to be involved in its new Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (DPHP) program. "Being part of a start-up was a creative challenge – from enhancing my public speaking skills to grant-writing to training care managers to researching and developing presentations on senior health topics," says Ms. Wieckowski, "Networking with senior center directors and experts in the field proved immensely useful for my next responsibilities at Partners."

After earning her Masters in Gerontology, she became Project Manager of Partners' Healthy Moves and Coordinator for the Medications Management programs, both of which are integral to the new AoA evidence-based programs being implemented throughout the state. Ms. Wieckowski savors Partners' "get it done" culture. "Partners is on the cutting-edge of developing the next generation of aging services. I'm proud to be part of the changes Partners is bringing to the field."

## **A Learning Environment for Ajila Harris**

Recently graduated from CSUN with her MSW, Ajila Harris reflects on her Partnership internship as full of varied experiences and the opportunity to work on all levels, from grant-writing to training for and then conducting fall prevention classes. "So much more is learned in working with real individuals in the field. Counseling a depressed elderly person one-on-one in her home is totally different than what we read in textbooks." Ms. Harris feels Partners is a learning environment, open to teaching and one in which she is able to utilize all her skills. "I treasure the opportunities to enrich my education so well."

## **A Career-Changing Experience: Samantha Stern**

Last year, a summer volunteership proved to be a career expanding experience for Samantha Stern, then a sophomore majoring in political science home on vacation from the University of Arizona. "Helping with grant-writing for Family Care Network and for the new AoA program and being engaged in Partners' range of work was a tremendous enlightening, growing experience. Best of all, I always felt my ideas were welcomed and valued. My father [Adrian Stern, Board Chair] was right – a perfect combination of my writing talent and passion for community service. It gave me a new sense of my future."

# Catholic Healthcare West's President/CEO Lloyd Dean Honored with Mathies Award at Partners' 2007 Vision and Excellence in Healthcare Leadership Tribute Dinner

In celebration of his inspirational leadership, Partners in Care Foundation presented Lloyd H. Dean, President/CEO of Catholic Healthcare West, with the prestigious 2007 Mathies Award at Partners' 8th Annual Vision and Excellence in Healthcare Leadership Tribute Dinner on April 30, 2007, at the Beverly Hills Hotel before a capacity audience of well-wishers.

"The Mathies Award calls attention to healthcare, community and private sector leaders who step forward and make positive, far-reaching changes in

improving health care delivery services. Lloyd Dean exemplifies how individuals do make the difference," noted Adrian Stern, Chair of Partners' Board of Directors.

Initiated and named in honor of Partners' first award winners, Dr. Allen & Weta Mathies, the Mathies Award is given each year in recognition of an innovative and creative leader in the professional healthcare

*continued on 1B*



*Celebrating the success of Partners 2007 Tribute Dinner are: (pictured left to right): Seth Ellis, VP and COO, Motion Picture & TV Fund and Partners Board member; June Simmons, Partners president & CEO; Adrian Stern, Board Chair; Michelle Stern; and Randi Lundy, Dinner Co-chair and Board member*



*In honor of their contributions to Partners, Dr. Allen and Weta Mathies, for whom the Mathies Award is named, are recognized.*



*Sharing a laugh together at the Tribute Dinner are Partners' Board members: Cathleen Cunningham, Partner, Strategic Relationship Management, Deloitte & Touche LLP and Gordon M. Johnson, Director, Appraisal and Market Analysis Services, HFS Consultants.*

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## Major Challenges Make Change Imperative: Re-Designing the Health System

*Excerpts from remarks given by June Simmons at Partners 2007 Vision & Excellence in Healthcare Leadership Tribute Dinner*

It can be safely said that our generous Tribute Dinner sponsors and attendees, indeed all who are involved in guiding the course of healthcare, cherish health and want to build a system of care that supports quality of life, choice, and independence.

### **Medical Advances and An Aging Population**

Given that technology is saving many who would otherwise be lost, this generation and beyond will have a 30 year bonus of time. But we see that health care is under siege, partly because we have a system designed for another time; for acute care and disease cure when

prevention and education would avoid or minimize the impact on quality of life and resource utilization.

In light of major societal changes and medical advances, Partners and our collaborators are working to re-design a healthcare system that better suits our 21st century needs.

There are so many pressures on healthcare and social services organizations. Yet, many times precious resources are misdirected. People are in the ER for primary care or are admitted for avoidable reasons. Emergency rooms and hospitals are closing, patients are transitioned into the home without the necessary resources to help them, and the families who care for them are overburdened.

*continued on 1B*

Tribute, from page 1A

### Partners' Role: Simple, Profound Changes

Partners was founded to collaborate with leaders of delivery systems of care – hospitals, medical groups, health plans and social services organizations with the mission to join in the challenges of bringing transformational change to care by creating new and innovative programs that allow individuals and families the ability to fully participate and impact their quality of life.

Partners focuses on building the systems in the community and home to address the new problems that have evolved as our society has changed. Our focus is on people and their families who carry so much of the impact of illness and injury, on working to create choices so the ER and hospital are used appropriately, and health is promoted and protected.

With 80% of the healthcare dollar spent on chronic conditions and 25% of the Medicare dollar spent in the last year of life, these lasting conditions require a great deal of self-care and family support over long periods of time. These are areas that impact very large populations, that cost a great deal of money, and yet we find that there is still suffering and misused resources.

### Key Areas for Change

With collaborators and funders, Partners initiated and developed evidence-based projects for the last year of life demonstrating the

effectiveness of simple changes which can profoundly impact the quality of the last year of life for both the individual, family members and loved ones while reducing costs of care and transforming the system of care. In Older Adult Health, Partners' models of care are being implemented nationwide. Partners is addressing the dramatic and important Ethnic Health Disparities on several fronts including reducing infant mortality and addressing childhood obesity and diabetes.

### Taking Leadership for Change

California is now a leader in the emerging national debate to restructure our healthcare system. While this crucial dialogue moves forward, Partners continues to work to identify and address aspects of healthcare that we can, as individuals and leaders, actually take hold of and "change the shape of healthcare."

These are times of such great challenge – and great leaders, such as Lloyd Dean whom we honored at the 2007 Tribute Dinner – are very much needed to join us in working toward making fundamental change in the way we deliver care at home, in the community – anywhere where healthcare is delivered.

We thank the many leaders who courageously stand and fight for quality care and to protect and preserve our health care resources.

Major Changes, from page 1A

community whose dedication and accomplishments make a significant impact on improving healthcare and serve as a model for others to emulate in changing the shape of healthcare.

"His transformational leadership strengthened CHW's ministry, increased its community service and put the organization on a solid financial footing that secured its future on behalf of all they serve," said W. June Simmons, president and CEO of Partners.



*Partners president and CEO June Simmons (left) and Board member Eve Kurtin, Managing Director, Pacific Venture Group, share in the Tribute Dinner festivities.*

"As an individual and as a healthcare leader, Lloyd Dean personifies the vision and ability to lead positive change and represents the true spirit and meaning of the Mathies Award."

Mr. Dean joins seven previous Mathies Award honorees: Francine R. Kaufman, M.D.; Thomas M. Priselac, President and CEO, Cedars-Sinai Health System; C. Duane Dauner, President and CEO of the California Hospital Association; Robert E. Tranquada, M.D.; James E. Ludlam, J.D.; Yoshi Honkawa; and Dr. Allen & Weta Mathies.



*Joining Willie Brown (left) and Lloyd Dean in enjoying the Tribute Dinner's celebration of leadership is June Simmons, Partners president and CEO.*

*For more information, visit [www.picf.org/events](http://www.picf.org/events).*



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## For More Info

Call: (818) 837. 3775  
Fax: (818) 837. 3799  
Email: [partners@picf.org](mailto:partners@picf.org)  
[www.picf.org](http://www.picf.org)

## Quick Takes:

### Older Adult Health

- 3.5 million older adults live in California, the largest and most ethnically diverse population in the U.S.
- Low-income, homebound, frail seniors have the highest rates of arthritis, heart disease, and diabetes, yet these are mostly preventable or manageable conditions.
- Reducing risk of falls, proper medication management and increasing physical activity improves chronic conditions and health among older adults.

## Save This Date:

**2007 Partners' Golf Classic**  
**October 8, 2007**  
**North Ranch Country Club**  
**Westlake Village**

*Reserve now: 818-837-3775 ext.131*

## Our Guiding Principles:

### **Collaboration Innovation Impact**

We believe that today's healthcare and social services need to change in fundamental ways.

This requires new strategies and **high-impact innovations.**

We seek to design, develop, manage and pilot new programs that will **serve as replicable models of care.**

**Together with community-based organizations and public and private funders** we work to create these fundamental changes.