

# HEALTH MATTERS



Your first choice for quality care®

Fourth Quarter 2022

PrimaryOne Health's newsworthy information

## Wrapping Up 2022 with Partnership, Facility and COVID Expansions

By Charleta B. Tavares, CEO



The final months of 2022 saw growth and expansion plans for PrimaryOne Health (PIH) to serve more communities throughout Franklin County. In addition to new brick and mortar locations and expansion at existing sites, PIH also increased the number of partnerships with faith and community-based organizations. These partnerships provided opportunities to offer COVID-19 and influenza vaccines, provide primary care and establish medical homes for central Ohio residents.

During the holiday season the Board and staff adopted patient families to provide holiday meals, clothing and gifts for adults and children. In addition, the PrimaryOne Health Team conducted Produce Give-Aways and partnered with community-based organizations like Project Help Clothing Ministry to run Clothing and Toy Drives.

While we are moving through COVID-19 and its variants over the last several years, we are still not where we want or need to be with what is called herd immunity. Herd immunity occurs when a large portion of a community (the herd)

becomes immune to a disease. The spread of the disease from person to person becomes unlikely when herd immunity is achieved. As a result, the whole community becomes protected — not just those who are immune. We have not reached this level (70-75% fully vaccinated) in Franklin County nor the state of Ohio.

“The spread of the disease from person to person becomes unlikely when herd immunity is achieved.”

PrimaryOne Health along with other Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Look-Alikes have received Expanded COVID Vaccine Funding to continue to do outreach, education and conduct vaccine clinics to increase the number of residents who are immunized against the virus. We are especially focused on adults over 60 years of age, individuals with compromised immune systems and with chronic diseases, as well as young children. Please reach out to us if you would like to partner with our Mobile Health Center Team to “Driving Good Health to You!®” to schedule a vaccine event or get a vaccine appointment by visiting our website [www.primaryonehealth.org](http://www.primaryonehealth.org) and completing a request form or calling 614.645.5500.



# Community Health Outreach Workers Providing Access to COVID-19 Vaccines – VACCINE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

PrimaryOne Health’s patient population is largely comprised of individuals who unfairly face barriers to health care, such as communities of color, those with low socioeconomic statuses, refugees and immigrants. Persons experiencing homelessness, persons who use illicit substances, and persons who engage in commercial sex work.

Throughout the pandemic, partnering with settlement and drop-in centers, faith based entities, public health departments, housing networks, homeless camps, etc., PrimaryOne Health provided vaccinations to more than 14,000 residents. The use of our Community Health Outreach Workers to reach community residents and patients through outreach efforts, partners, social media platforms, and public health department websites has established an expedited access to vaccinations. In addition to, our CHOW’s and clinical teams have attended more than 100 COVID-19 events this past year, in communities on the West Side, South Side, Near East Side and Linden. Our

two mobile health centers with vaccines add extra capacity to serve and provide vaccinations in the neighborhoods we serve.

The CHOW, as the designated Vaccine Ambassador, worked collaboratively with other departments at PrimaryOne Health, as well as other community-based agencies in making the critical linkages to health information and services for community members. As an advocate for community health, the CHOW also worked to educate the general public to reduce vaccine hesitancy and dispel the myths and misinformation surrounding the COVID-19 vaccines. The CHOW is involved in the direct recruitment of participants for the Vaccine Ambassador Program that focuses on the specific target groups.

The CHOW also maintains direct input into the Vaccine Ambassador Program software database to report certain demographic information regarding the issues and barriers to health and wellness.

By interviewing each person engaged, the CHOW is able to select the appropriate target population to accomplish the project goal.

In 2023, the Vaccine Ambassador Program will continue to provide access to those who have COVID-19 and will expand to provide additional vaccines to these target groups. Besides COVID-19, the program will provide Flu shots, HPV, tetanus and pneumonia vaccinations. The program will also continue to work with established partners that provide services to meet the individual needs of the resident.

The CHOW has identified specific partners to accomplish the delivery of health care resources, linkages and information regarding COVID-19 vaccinations. Working within the Mobile Health Center Team, CHOW will provide the initial health engagement and linkage to services for the community resident.

During the initial year of operation, the Vaccine Ambassador Program has reported data as listed below:



## Economic Impact of Community Health Centers



Community Health Centers (CHC) are successful, low-cost options for primary care access in a nation that spends \$2 trillion a year on health care. Medical cost for CHC patients are 41% lower compared to patients seen elsewhere such as a

hospital emergency room. As a result CHC’s save the healthcare system between \$9.9 billion and \$17.6 billion a year. If every American made use of preventative primary care, the healthcare system would see \$67 billion in savings annually.



# Expansions and Locations Updates

## New Alum Creek Location

The Project Management Team is excited to share more information about the expansion projects that are underway. The new and much larger Alum Creek health center, located inside the new Alvis, Inc. building, is close to the construction phase. The nearly 4,000-square-foot health center will add dental, vision, and behavioral health to Alum Creek, as well as additional exam rooms. We expect construction to begin in the coming weeks and, barring any delays or supply chain issues, the new location should be able to accept patients by April or May of 2023.

## School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs)

Many of you have heard about the two new and exciting School-Based Health Centers planned for the Columbus Global Academy with Columbus City Schools (CCS) and the Groveport Madison Schools' Welcome Center. While these projects have not been immune to their fair share of design

and budgetary challenges, they would not be possible without our PrimaryOne Health team members, as well as our partnerships with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), the Columbus City School and Groveport Madison School boards, and their voters.

Groveport Madison Schools have begun the early phases of pre-construction site preparation and staging. The Groveport Madison Health Center is scheduled to open in Spring 2023.

Columbus Global Academy will commence pre-construction soon and the health center is scheduled to open in Mid-Summer 2023.

Both of the School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) will be offering medical, dental, vision, behavioral health, and support services to students, staff, faculty, and the community.

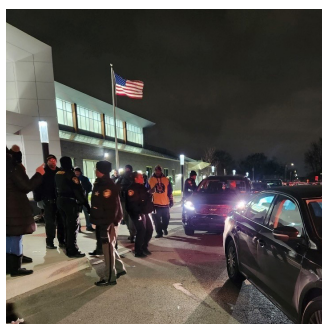
## Agler Rd. Upgrades

The Project Management Team has also been making progress on the plans to renovate the Agler Road health center. Bids have been obtained and contracts awarded for painting and flooring in common areas, as well as a space for the CenteringPregnancy® program. Currently, the team is working together to determine when the work can be done with minimal impact to operations. Additionally, Agler's janitorial services are now being managed internally instead of by the building owner. This change allows for improved contracted services. As a part of this new contract, PrimaryOne Health has invested in additional day porter services. A day porter is an employee of the cleaning company that is able to perform cursory cleaning and assist with janitorial-related issues during health center hours. This should help increase cleanliness throughout the day and allow staff to focus on clinical responsibilities.

# Making Holidays Brighter in our Communities

This past November and December, PrimaryOne Health staff and volunteers helped hundreds of our central Ohio residents have a happy and healthy holiday season by partnering with several organizations to assist with Turkey Giveaways, Toy drives and Clothing drives.

PrimaryOne Health recognizes the social determinants of health our patients and community members face every day. We are committed to our mission and providing access to services that meet the needs of our patients and move them to optimal health.



# A Memorable Night- Benefiting the Healthcare Justice Scholarship Fund

PrimaryOne Health hosted the 8th Annual Healthcare Justice Awards and celebrated 25 years of service on November 10, 2022, and it was truly a night to remember. Many thanks to all of the supporters and partners that helped to make this event one of the most memorable and successful events to date. Raising over \$150,000, the net will be applied to the newly created Healthcare Justice Scholarship Fund. The fund was created to provide financial assistance to individuals who seek to enter or advance their career in healthcare and encourage diversity within health professions.

In addition to the money raised, the

evening was filled with entertainment, celebration and recognition, of two very deserving healthcare justice award recipients, Cora Munoz, PhD RN, and Lauren Russo, DNP for their commitment and dedication.

The evening was led by NBC4's Cierra Johnson, serving as Mistress of Ceremony and recognizing the 25th Anniversary along with elected officials and community members. A special acknowledgment was provided by Honorary Co-chairs, Les Wright, former Columbus City Councilwoman and William "Bill" Myers, former Columbus Public Health Commissioner on the 25th Anniversary and history of the organization.

The entertainment for the evening was provided by Groveport Madison High School choir under the direction of Anna Winters, Chorale Director and the E-Flat Jazz Band provided a wonderful evening of acapella songs in Swahili & Spanish and jazz music.

A special thanks goes out to the Planning Committee and chair, Dr. Mary Bynum. The Committee is now planning for the 9th Annual event on November 2, 2023 at COSI. For sponsorship and ticket information, contact Susan Brewer, Development & Marketing Manager at [susan.brewer@primaryonehealth.org](mailto:susan.brewer@primaryonehealth.org).



Your first choice for quality care®

Mission: To provide access to services that improve the health status of families, including people experiencing financial, social, or cultural barriers to health care.



This health center is a Health Center Program grantee under 42 U.S.C. 254b, and a deemed Public Health Service employee under 42 U.S.C. 233(g)-(n).

Corporate Office  
2780 Airport Dr., Suite 100  
Columbus OH 43219

p: 614.645.5500  
f: 614.645.5517  
[www.primaryonehealth.org](http://www.primaryonehealth.org)