



National Health Center Week: PA Officials Praise School-Based Health Center

IN THIS ISSUE

School-based Health.....	1
Mobile School Dentistry..	1
Nicole's Story.....	2
Shane's Story.....	2
Perspectives & Notes.....	2
Why I Give.....	3

State officials recognized the work of Family First Health in coordinating school-based health services for over 25 years, for students who may not otherwise be able to access dental, medical and vision care.

"Family First Health's school-based health center is working to reduce barriers for families by providing critically needed services directly in school so that all young people, no matter their zip code, have equal opportunity to learn and grow," said Val Arkoosh, Secretary of the PA Department of Human Services, in a news release after a visit to York City's Hannah Penn K-8 School during National Health Center Week in August.

Health officials pointed to the partnership that helped create the center as a potential model for increasing health care access. The health center, which serves 1,100 patients annually, first opened in 1997 with help from the York City Bureau of Health, School District of the City of York, and WellSpan Health.

"As a pediatrician, I've seen first-hand how school-based health clinics help children who otherwise may have gaps in their healthcare get the medical, behavioral, dental, and vision services they need," said Debra Bogen, the state's acting Secretary of Health, in the news release.

The Hannah Penn Center offers health services to students, their families, and members of the surrounding community. Adult primary and pediatric care are available as well as behavioral health and wellness services.

The health center, like all Family First Health locations, has language interpretation and trained staff members that assess eligibility for health coverage, in addition to on-call staff to deal with emergencies 24/7.

Funding for the center comes from Medicaid reimbursement, individual payments, and grants from private donors. In 2020, Family First Health received \$2 million from the United Health Foundation to expand offerings at Hannah Penn, including health navigators who help families connect to social services and home visits.

MOBILE SCHOOL DENTISTRY PROGRAM EXPANDS ACCESS

Family First Health will start the school year providing mobile dental services to students at 51 schools across our four-county service area. Last year, our mobile dental team provided 4,568 visits to 2,261 students, including increased services at 3 schools in the Columbia School District (324 visits, 134 students) and new services at 5 schools in the Gettysburg Area School District (131 visits, 131 students).

Making a Difference: School-Based Health

The Hannah Penn Health Center has been a presence on the school campus and in the community for more than 25 years. Students – and their families – are able to receive medical attention from our team during the school day. Education and support are also provided by our wellness coach and community health workers on smart eating habits, exercise, hygiene and related topics – including mental health and reproductive health.



As you might imagine, there are many stories – both shared and untold – about the impact of the center and our team on the health and wellbeing of students, families, and the community.

Nicole's story. Nicole, an 8th grader, will tell you that her father was reluctant to have her receive her health care at school. What persuaded him to enroll Nicole as a patient with Family First Health was recognizing that this was a solution to a barrier frequently experienced by parents: missing work to take a child out of school to see a doctor.

Nicole also saw the health center team were caring and supportive individuals that she could trust to help answer questions – initially about diet and nutrition, but more recently about healthy behaviors. She credits working with Sharla Scotten, health and wellness coach, for “giving me a chance to take ownership of my health.”

Shane's story. Shane, a former Hannah Penn School student, recalls the journey his grandmother experienced as a patient of the health center. As her caregiver, he saw firsthand how it takes a dedicated team to effectively manage someone's care.

Shane openly shares that his grandmother experienced many barriers to healthcare during her lifetime, and could be challenging to deal with at times. However, she came to regard the health center as her health home. “There was something about Family First Health that she trusted,” he says. Especially Brooke Lasher, physician assistant, who “met my grandmother where she was,” and remained integral to her quality of care through end of life.



Perspectives and Notes

“Identifying and establishing relationships with everyone who has an impact on the health and well-being of a student is essential to positive outcomes. From the school principal, teachers, and school nurses, to our medical and community health staff, to parents and family members, all are connected and play vital roles as members of a coordinated care team.”

Recently, a young student came with his mother to enroll at Hannah Penn. Because of our relationship with the school staff and our capacity to address native language needs, the school was able to make an introduction of the family to our care team, and initiate enrollment of this new student as the newest member of our Hannah Penn Health Center community.”

– Nikole Tome, School-based Health Center Manager, Family First Health

“While it's great to discuss the benefits of in-school health centers on student well-being, the numbers speak for themselves. In one study, just low to moderate use of school-based health centers by students related to approximately a 33 percent lower likelihood of them dropping out of school.

At a time when parents and policymakers are looking to make schools safer spaces for students, providing them with accessible resources for healthy living is one of the easiest ways to help them.”

– Jenny Englerth, President and CEO, Family First Health

Why I Give: Donor Spotlight

Meet Mike.

Mike knows a thing or two about people and the challenges they face dealing with the healthcare system. Working in sales for the retail and insurance industries, he saw how important it was for people to have access to products and services that reflect the needs of the communities where they live and work. That experience served him well when his employer health insurance plan no longer covered visits to his longtime primary care provider.

Fortunately for Mike (and us) his calls to find a new medical services provider that would accept his insurance brought him to Family First Health. He was immediately impressed with his new primary care doctor and the focus placed on his personal health and well-being. And he soon realized that was how every patient was treated – individuals and families from his own community.



Mike is a proud and passionate advocate for Family First Health.

That was almost 20 years ago.

Mike's journey with us continues. Yes, he has experienced change as members of his care team retire or advance professionally. But the focus on him – the continuity and quality of his health care and the emphasis on his role as a member of his own healthcare team – has only strengthened his confidence in Family First Health, and his commitment to helping us in our mission to improve lives, in big ways and small ways.

...it doesn't matter how much you give...it's that you give. You don't have to make a large donation to show your support - or to make a difference."

As Mike likes to point out, "it doesn't matter how much you give...it's that you give. You don't have to make a large donation to show your support – or to make a difference."

Thank you, Mike. We continue to make a difference because of you!

Mike Shanebrook currently serves as a consumer representative on the Family First Health Board of Directors. He is a life-long resident of Adams County, and is active in a number of community-based groups in the Gettysburg area.

Your gift can make a difference.

Ways to Give:

- **Check:** Mail your check, payable to Family First Health, to:
Development, Family First Health, 116 S. George Street, York PA 17401
- **Credit Card:** Make your secure donation online via our web site at:
www.familyfirsthealth.org/donate
- **Consider a recurring monthly gift.** Make your support have ongoing impact with an automated credit card contribution.



Scan to Give!

Questions?

Contact David Corman, Manager of Donor Relations, at 717-801-4850 or
dcorman@familyfirsthealth.org



Our Mission

WHAT WE DO

We improve lives; in **big ways** and **small ways**. From high quality health services and innovative partnerships to daily acts of compassion. In all ways, **we work together** to improve lives.

Our Vision

WHY WE DO IT

From healthcare to health for all

Closing the gap
Paving the way
Raising the bar

Our Values

WHAT GUIDES US

Patient Centered
Collaborative
Diverse
Stewardship
Evolving

Columbia (Dental)
430 Walnut St., Ste. 101
Columbia, PA 17512
717.356.2233

George Street
116 S. George St.
York, PA 17401
717.845.8617

Hannah Penn
415 E. Boundary Ave.
York, PA 17403
717.843.5174

Lebanon
300 Willow St., Ent. B
Lebanon, PA 17046
717.356.2222

Columbia (Medical)
369 Locust St.
Columbia, PA 17512
717.342.2577

Gettysburg
1275 York Rd., Ste. 17
Gettysburg, PA 17325
717.337.9400

Hanover
1230 High St.
Hanover, PA 17331
717.632.9052

Lewisberry
308 Market St.
Lewisberry, PA 17339
717.938.6695



www.FamilyFirstHealth.org