Dear LifeLong Supporter,

Thank you for your continuing support. There are a few health care trends I would like to mention to you. The greatest barrier to providing basic care in our communities is the shortage of primary care physicians. For years Graduate Medical Education has encouraged specialty care, leaving us with an acute shortage right at the very time the elder population is growing and more people have coverage through Health Reform.

Until we remedy the shortage, greater expectations will be placed on the teams who surround our doctors to play a bigger role in delivering care. Change is also coming in terms of how we use technology to access care when we want and need it, and how technology supports our providers in their work. Community health centers already provide some of the best integrated care to patients. We will have to solve these other challenges, as well.

A few items of news:

In 2015, we saw big improvements in health access. In May, the state made Medi-Cal available for undocumented kids. Now we have to advocate for Medi-Cal to cover undocumented adults, as well. Everyone in our community deserves high-quality care. LifeLong Medical Care is offering Immediate/Urgent Care services in both Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. We are open to anyone and everyone — not just LifeLong’s patients. LifeLong Immediate/Urgent Care-Berkeley will also be celebrating its one-year anniversary on Saturday, October 22 from 11 AM – 2 PM at 2001 Dwight Way. Among tours and refreshments, we will have a free flu vaccine clinic and free glucose/blood pressure screenings. We hope you and your friends will stop by and visit us. We are located on the First Floor of Herrick Campus in Alta Bates Summit Medical Center.

Design work is proceeding for a new LifeLong Health Center in Richmond on Harbour Way — already home to LifeLong Jenkins Health Center. We hope to consolidate family practice, pediatrics, dental, and urgent care in Richmond. It is expected to take about two years to design, build, and complete.

We currently have small health centers in Pinole and Rodeo, and we are also building out a full health center on San Pablo Avenue in Pinole. We hope to have it completed in 12-18 months.

Last but not least, we hope you will join us at our Annual Gala on February 25, 2017 at HS Lordships in Berkeley. Proceeds benefit LifeLong’s programs and services.

Thank you for all that you do to make our work possible.

Sincerely,

Marty Lynch
Executive Director/CEO
Congressman DeSaulnier Tours LifeLong William Jenkins Health Center
As part of National Community Health Center Week in August, State Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (CA-11) toured LifeLong Medical Care’s William Jenkins Health Center and reviewed our plans to expand the Health Center. “LifeLong’s William Jenkins Health Center is representative of the high-quality, professional care that all Americans deserve,” said Congressman DeSaulnier. “It is evident that LifeLong plays an absolutely critical role in keeping our communities healthy every day.” LifeLong Medical Care and the Community Clinic Consortium hosted the visit.

Univision Op-Ed Quotes LifeLong Medical Care’s Lynch in Calling for Expanded Access for 2.6 Million Undocumented California Residents
California’s recent law expanding health care access under the Affordable Care Act for undocumented State residents “is a nice symbolic gesture. It really won't help California’s undocumented patients or health systems. We need Medicaid expansion,” said LifeLong Medical Care Executive Director Marty Lynch in an op-ed published in the national edition of Univision News recently. Quoting Lynch, Public Citizen advocates Wendell Potter and Vijay Das argue that California’s hardworking 2.6 million undocumented residents deserve better access to health care and improved affordability. Read more . . . http://bit.ly/DasPotterCASB10

LifeLong’s Controller Graduates from Emerging Leaders Program for Promising Health Care Professionals
LifeLong Medical Care Controller Patricia Espinosa recently graduated from the 2016 Clinic Leadership Institute’s (CLI) Emerging Leaders Program. The program, sponsored by Blue Shield of California Foundation, is geared to helping promising health care professionals with the skills and networks necessary to navigate California’s health care safety net. Espinosa has been a LifeLong employee for 20 years.

“Opt-Out” HIV/AIDS Testing Program Contributes to Early Achievement of California’s Target 2020 Goal
Institution of a best practice called “Opt-Out” testing has contributed to achievement of a major California goal for the eradication of HIV/AIDS — six years early. Through coordinated training with LifeLong’s health care providers and implementation of quality improvement methods, HIV/AIDS testing has increased dramatically at our Health Centers. The practice makes testing for HIV/AIDS standard practice — unless patients opt-out. “It’s quite remarkable. We’ve changed our culture around testing,” says Luis Renteria, LifeLong’s HIV Coordinator.

Ways to Support LifeLong
✓ Give a Monetary Gift Today!
✓ Get Your Employer Involved. Double your gift through our matching gifts program.
✓ Donate Your Car, Truck, Van, Motorcycle, RV, or Boat. This tax-deductible gift makes a difference. It’s easy, just call: Car Donation Services at 888.686.4483 and reference LifeLong Medical Care.
✓ Shop Online with AmazonSmile and/or E-Scrip. Visit www.lifelongmedical.org for more information.
✓ Hold a Fundraiser for LifeLong Medical Care. This type of event helps to spread the word about our cause — and yours.
✓ Leave a Legacy. Set up a lasting gift today.
✓ Donate online: www.lifelongmedical.org.
If you have any questions, please contact LifeLong’s Director of Development & External Communications, Katherine S. O’Donnell at 510.981.4183 or kodonnell@lifelongmedical.org.