LifeLong’s Health Care Heroes Battle Pandemic

From the bottom of my heart, I want to recognize and thank all of the LifeLong Medical Care employees who have put their lives on the line every day to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. They have fought in a million wonderful ways for the sick, the underserved, the vulnerable, and unsheltered. They are all LifeLong Medical Care Health Care Heroes!

The stats speak for themselves: Since the beginning of Shelter in Place restrictions, LifeLong Medical Care has provided:

- 52,672 tele-medicine visits
- 24,417 in-person essential visits
- 3,585 Covid-19 tests
- 2,537 urgent care visits

Like other community health centers, LifeLong Medical Care pivoted to meet the needs of our communities in this emergency. We have employed innovative care models, conducting virtual tele-medicine visits. Tele-health appointments are key to mitigating COVID-19 exposure as it limits the spread of the disease to other health center patients, staff, and the general community.

We also provide much needed tele-dentistry visits, most of which required in-person dental visits after initial screening. These have been critical, as most patients have nowhere else to go for dental emergencies.

We have been at the forefront of testing for COVID-19 in the East Bay. With four testing sites in Richmond, Oakland, and Berkeley, we offer free testing widely to the most at-risk communities, including the uninsured, undocumented, and unhoused. Our testing team organized the development of the infrastructure needed to provide free COVID-19 testing for LifeLong patients. Because of their efforts, LifeLong Medical Care was one of the first medical providers to set up tent sites and develop a partnership with the City of Berkeley and a UC Berkeley Lab.

LifeLong's Street Medicine Program Teams have expanded their work to provide care to more unsheltered populations, testing people living on the street for COVID-19, and connecting people who are sick with Alameda County facilities, such as an isolation hotel.

During this pandemic, our LifeLong Health Care Heroes have stepped-up to tackle a myriad of tasks big and small, in their health centers and in their communities. They will continue to put their hearts into their work as we move forward in this battle — because they are all LifeLong Health Care Heroes!

As you can see from the poster on the flip side of this newsletter, LifeLong Medical Care is celebrating our Health Care Heroes! If you can help them continue to provide vital services during this pandemic, please donate to LifeLong Medical Care online at www.lifelongmedical.org, or send a check to us using the enclosed envelope.

David B. Vliet
Chief Executive Officer

LifeLong Medical Care is an innovative, non-profit Federally Qualified Health Center serving Alameda, Contra Costa, and Marin Counties with 14 health centers, four Dental Centers, an Adult Day Health Center, four School-Based Health Centers, two Dental Vans, two Medical Vans serving the unhoused, a Supportive Housing Program, and Urgent Care services.

Thank you for joining us in our lifesaving efforts, and we look forward to keeping you updated on ways you can help sustain our work.

You can support LifeLong Medical Care's programs and services for people of all ages online at www.lifelongmedical.org.
THANK YOU
HEALTH CARE HEROES
LifeLong is Committed to Health Equity

LifeLong Medical Care’s community mourned with the family of George Floyd, and joined in the protests his killing unleashed. LifeLong has been reflecting on our organization’s deep commitment to racial justice. In serving our diverse patients, we are well aware that some live under the constant threat of racist violence.

The creation of community health centers (CHCs) like LifeLong Medical Care was part of a movement for social justice and access to health care for all that grew out of the civil rights movement. In essence, “Black Lives Matter” is the very reason CHCs were founded. In this tradition, we continue to stand against injustice and racism. Like other institutions in America, LifeLong has had to operate within the broader structural, institutional, and implicit bias within society, and specifically, in health care, which itself has a long history of racism and discrimination.

Institutional racism is at the very core of health disparities between communities of color and white populations — including higher rates of diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease; and the infant mortality rate for Black babies stuck at nearly 2.5 times that of whites. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we know that the death rate for African Americans is three times that of white Americans.

For so many in our community, LifeLong brings the health equity that allows families to live better lives each and every day. During this pandemic, LifeLong continues to help vulnerable populations. We remain dedicated to proactively ensuring we are moving forward for equity within and outside our organization.

LifeLong Helps Newly Unemployed File for Medi-Cal

As unemployment due to COVID-19 skyrockets, LifeLong Medical Care has been helping individuals who have lost their employer-sponsored health care benefits and need to rely on Medi-Cal, Covered California or other state and local programs for health coverage. In July alone, 2 million Californians were expected to join the Medi-Cal health system. LifeLong provides medical, dental, and behavioral health care to uninsured individuals and assists them with enrolling in the programs and/or insurances for which they qualify. LifeLong accepts Medi-Cal, Medicare, and most commercial health plans.

LifeLong is Recipient of 20,000 Facemasks for Health Care Providers

LifeLong Medical Care is grateful for the in-kind donations of personal protective equipment (PPE). LifeLong was the recipient of 20,000 surgical facemasks donated by a Chinese medical company, and private Chinese citizen through a local non-profit foundation. The companies reached out to the Fountain Project Foundation in El Cerrito to distribute over 200,000 masks to medical facilities throughout California for use during the COVID-19 pandemic. LifeLong is one of the largest recipients, having received a total of 23,500 masks.

“These high-quality facemasks are much appreciated and will help ensure the continued safety of LifeLong Medical Care’s staff and patients during COVID-19,” said Judy Gillespie, Manager of LifeLong Medical Care’s West Berkeley Health Center. Gillespie also serves as a Qigong instructor and board member for the Foundation Project.

WAYS TO SUPPORT LIFELONG

4 Give a Monetary Gift Today!
4 Get Your Employer Involved. Double your gift through our matching-gifts program.
4 Make a gift of stock.
4 Donate Your Car, Truck, RV, Motorcycle, or Boat. Call Car Donation Services at 888.686.4483. Reference LifeLong Medical Care.
4 Leave a Legacy. Set up a lasting gift today.
4 Donate online: www.lifelongmedical.org.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 510.981.4154 or development@lifelongmedical.org.