



August 27, 2010

Members of the Church Council
Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster
328 W. Orange Street
Lancaster, PA 17604

Re: Clinic Update

Dear Members of the Council:

On behalf of the Board and members of CVID, I am writing to provide an update of the status of our project. We regret the lack of communication these past few months.

Unfortunately, Ed Freedman has been dealing with some significant health issues that have caused him to curtail most activities including work on the clinic project. Natalie Freedman's efforts have also been severely curtailed because of the time committed to helping Ed with his convalescence. Ed and Natalie's absence has unfortunately had an impact but we remain diligent in our collective efforts.

CVID formally retained Todd Lindsley as a fund raising consultant in May. As part of his services to us, Todd had an opportunity to meet with representatives of PALCO (Project Access Lancaster County), Southeast Clinic, Water Street Rescue Mission, Lancaster General Hospital, St. Joseph's Health Ministry (The Brush Brush Mobile), and others to discuss the status of subsidized and free dental services in the Lancaster Community. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of collaboration and how best to serve the dental health needs of the community. There was an overwhelming sense among all of the parties attending that meeting that the various health groups should attempt to work together in some fashion. A second meeting was held this morning at PALCO's office on New Holland Pike with another one scheduled for August 30th.

All of the participants agree that there is an overwhelming need for free and/or low cost dental services in our community including services for uninsured working poor and senior citizens. There is also consensus that a collaborative if not fully unified effort to provide services makes sense to maximize the services to the community. We are immensely proud that Dentistars is playing a motivating and convening role in what could end up being a breakthrough in dental care for working poor in Lancaster County. Please know that we have been sharing the story about CMCL's project leadership and generosity throughout our discussions. We remain grateful for your critical involvement.

The development of the proposed clinic on Grant Street is a significant endeavor. The initial financial commitments by CMCL and CVID coupled with the need for considerable annual contributions to be sustainable are a significant challenge. Our fundraising consultant has few concerns about our ability to raise sufficient initial capital for the project. However, he is apprehensive about the ability to sustain the project in light of our initial financial projections. The competing interests throughout the County coupled with the current economic climate could present significant difficulties for us to obtain sufficient annual operating cash flow. We believe the alternative collaborative model that we are now exploring has tremendous promise.

Our next steps are to work with PALCO and others to find opportunities for financial and programmatic efficiencies. This is likely to result in a vast improvement in our plan to serve qualifying dental patients in Lancaster County, as well as more efficient and sustainable use of CMCL's property on Grant Street. We don't yet know what that will look like, but we seek your indulgence as we explore innovative ways that PALCO's medical program successes can be replicated to serve dental patients. We will work diligently to arrive at some consensus and to develop a plan to move forward. We will keep you abreast of our progress and welcome any questions you may have.

Very truly yours,

Community Volunteers in Dentistry



Gary Ziffer,
Treasurer

cc: Edward S. Freedman
Michael Eckhart
Frank Carano
Todd Lindsley
Jessica King