Our Legacy is...
Dear Friends,

Legacy Community Health Services is growing. We are moving forward and continue to expand our scope of services, offering more healthcare services to more underserved Houstonians. In January 2010, we assumed ownership of the Southwest Community Health Center operated by CHISTUS Medical Group for the past 18 years. Later this summer, we will begin opening a clinic inside the new Baker-Reply Neighborhood Center in southwest Houston. Soon, we will be starting construction on a new, state-of-the-art clinic in the Montrose neighborhood.

When I think about the exciting future of Legacy, I invariably reflect on our past. I think about the legacy passed down from a number of people in our community: the legacy left by many who have served on our board of directors. The legacy left by hundreds of employees and volunteers who, over the years, have built programs and services that have improved the health and wellness of our community. The legacy left by donors whose financial contributions allowed us to provide quality healthcare to those most in need. The legacy left by community advocates who have fought to provide compassionate care for people living with HIV/AIDS.

I am also humbled by the legacy left by the hundreds who have passed away, many of whom gave tirelessly to the mission of our organization. Their invisible spirit lives on in everything we do.

Our legacy is our past, which guides us toward the future. Our current accomplishments would not have been possible without this past. To continue this legacy over the coming years, we will rely on your support—through volunteering, advocacy, and financial resources.

Please consider how you can leave your legacy to the next generation. Together we can make a difference in the lives of so many people.

Warmest regards,

Katy Caldwell
Executive Director
Legacy Community Health Services
Our Legacy is... OUR MISSION

At Legacy Community Health Services, we empower our clients to lead a better life by providing premium, compassionate, primary healthcare services. We are committed to serving a diverse community including those persons who have traditionally faced problems accessing quality healthcare.

OUR VISION

Legacy’s vision is to continue to serve as a healthcare home by building a network of community clinics where people will feel welcomed and respected while receiving the highest quality healthcare services, regardless of their ability to pay.

OUR VALUES

Healthcare is a right not a privilege. At Legacy we believe quality comprehensive healthcare is a fundamental human right that grounds an individual physically, emotionally and spiritually. This right promotes balance and stability for our patients, which results in a healthier and more productive community.

Compassionate care for the whole person. We provide healthcare, education and wellness services to all. We treat each person with respect as an individual, celebrating their unique culture.

Embrace the diversity of our community. Legacy values our diverse community. We engage and respect everyone.

Bold leadership with sound fiscal management. Legacy values bold and driven leadership with sound financial management. We look to the future while never forgetting our past.

Nationally recognized with visionary solutions. Legacy values the intellectual capacity of our board and staff to develop visionary solutions that are recognized on a national level.

Our Legacy is... OUR SERVICES

Legacy’s continuum of care treats the whole person—physically, mentally, and emotionally—with one common goal: to achieve optimal health and wellness and prevent chronic health conditions. We provide healthcare services to meet the needs of each patient regardless of age, sex, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or ability to pay.

Healthcare for Men & Women – Legacy focuses on prevention of common health issues unique to each individual by being proactive with early diagnosis and treatment.

Healthcare for Children – Legacy strives to work within family dynamics to ensure that children get regular checkups, including required vaccines and immunizations; prevent childhood illnesses and foster healthy childhood development.

Mental Health Services – Tailored to meet each patient’s specific mental health needs, Legacy’s services include assessment, diagnosis, counseling, and treatment for mental illness. These services are for people of any age including children.

Eye Care – Legacy’s physicians specialize in both optometry and ophthalmology services to promote healthy eyes and to maintain or improve vision. Affordable glasses and contact lenses are also offered including bifocal and progressive lenses.

Family Planning – Designed to improve reproductive health, Legacy offers affordable birth control methods and provides physical examinations and education with the most current information on sexually transmitted diseases and how to prevent them.

Health Promotion & Community Outreach – Legacy regularly participates in health fairs and community outreach events providing invaluable health screenings and health information to underserved individuals.

Wellness Services – Legacy has a holistic approach to healthcare and offers nutritional counseling, physical therapy, massage therapy, and fitness programs to help individuals living with chronic illnesses like diabetes, high cholesterol and HIV.

Specialty Care For HIV / AIDS – For over 25 years, Legacy has been at the forefront of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in the U.S.; recognized for the comprehensive HIV services including medical treatment, social services, eye care, financial assistance, wellness services and prevention education for those living with the disease.

Maternity – Legacy’s newest service is full-service medical care providing maternity services for low-income women. The service includes pregnancy tests; early prenatal care, prenatal related laboratory tests, pelvic exams, ultrasounds, and nutritional recommendations. Every new patient goes through a maternity education course. This service is currently available at our Southwest Clinic location.
People who are diagnosed with HIV today have more treatment options available and better ways to manage the disease. But for someone like Dennis Goolsby, who was diagnosed in 1987, living with HIV has been harder.

When he received the phone call telling him his test results were positive for HIV, Dennis thought he was going to die in a week. He had already seen several friends die from the disease and knew there were few treatment options available. In fact, there was only one medication in 1987 and a second wouldn’t be FDA approved for another five years.

In those early days of treatment, HIV medications were given in high doses and usually with many side effects. Side effects like nausea, vomiting and headache were immediately noticed. Other side effects were slower to manifest and wouldn’t be noticed for years.

One such side effect is known as Buffalo Hump. This accumulation of fat on the back of the neck is common in people suffering from lipodystrophy, a side effect of HIV antiviral medications. Dennis has had to deal with this condition twice now. The most recent episode left him unable to turn his head from side to side or lie down on his back.

Because Buffalo Hump is viewed as a cosmetic side effect, insurance companies won’t cover treatment. Dennis lives on a fixed income and was unable to afford the surgery required to remove it. Luckily Dennis is a patient at Legacy Community Health Services where there is a small fund set aside to help patients with lipodystrophy. Dennis had surgery in the summer of 2009 and is now able to move his head.

“I have been coming to Legacy for 5 or 6 years now,” Dennis stated, “I stayed in Houston because of the quality of care I get there, it is excellent.”

Dennis said that he has used many of Legacy’s HIV services over the years, including the Frost Eye Clinic for glasses, the onsite pharmacy, and the medication program. In the fall of 2009, he enrolled in the Body Positive Wellness Center’s fitness program to help prevent the Buffalo Hump from returning.

“Even if I won the lottery I would still come to Legacy,” Dennis says. “The employees are very professional and polite, and they treat me with kindness and respect.”
Our Legacy is... OUR PATIENTS

For many mothers, finding a good doctor for their children can be quite difficult, especially if they don’t have health insurance. When the child has fears of going to the doctor, the difficulty only worsens.

Iris Williams first brought her son, Simon, to Legacy Community Health Services in 2007. As a resident of Houston’s Fifth Ward, Iris liked the convenience of Legacy’s community health center on Lyons Avenue in the heart of her neighborhood. When she found out Legacy offered school physicals, even to those without health insurance, she was thrilled.

“My son had a bad experience with a doctor when he was younger and did not like going to the doctor,” Iris sighed. “But Legacy was able to schedule a physical for Simon within the week, and I was told it would only cost $40.”

Now that Iris had an appointment for her son at an affordable cost, she only had to worry about whether Simon would like the doctor.

“I just love Dr. Levine; he is so kind and wonderful,” Iris continued. “He not only made my son feel at ease but he also treated him like a young man. That made us both feel really good.”

This past summer Simon hurt his finger at a summer program. Iris had to take him to the emergency room to get his fingernail removed. For his follow-up care Iris sought out Legacy to clean the wound and make sure it was healing properly.

“Again the staff at Legacy was great and the finger is healing nicely,” Iris gloved. “I am so glad Legacy had a doctor to care for him after the visit to the ER.”

When people in Iris’s neighborhood ask her where to go for quality and affordable healthcare, Iris doesn’t hesitate to refer them to Legacy. She knows they will get great care. Iris stated, “It gives me great satisfaction knowing that Legacy is here for all of us and will take care of our health care needs.”

Iris & Simon Williams

Iris & Simon
Our Legacy is... OUR ADVOCACY

Through advocacy at the local, state and national level, Legacy Community Health Services helps to shape healthcare policy that benefits our patients. Legacy has worked with community coalitions and other advocacy groups on such issues as Medicare/Medicaid, community health centers, indigent health care, and HIV- and AIDS-related policies. Legacy employees and volunteers advocate for fair and effective health policy by:

- Mobilizing the community to help shape public policy
- Directly influencing legislative government policies and procedures
- Leading HIV/AIDS coalitions on issues such as The Ryan White CARE Act and syringe exchange
- Raising awareness about health disparities in disenfranchised communities, caring for the uninsured, and HIV/AIDS

RECENT SUCCESSES OF THE LEGACY ADVOCACY PROJECT

HIV Entry Ban
Since 1987, the U.S. has banned individuals from foreign countries living with HIV/AIDS from visiting or immigrating to the U.S. Only 11 other countries like Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Libya and South Korea completely ban people with HIV from entering – even for a short trip – without special permission. Under the U.S. ban, HIV-positive individuals could only obtain a green card if they qualified for a waiver If not, they were denied residency and began deportation proceedings.

In July of 2008, Legacy and its partners made history when Congress and President Bush lifted the statutory HIV entry ban. Legacy continues the advocacy by educating immigrant communities about the change in law.

Harm Reduction Legislation
Since 2005, Legacy has been educating Texas lawmakers and the public on the benefits of incorporating syringe exchange into HIV and Hepatitis C prevention programs. Currently, Texas law does not permit syringe exchange programs. However, scientific studies have repeatedly proven that syringe exchange prevents disease transmission, reduces healthcare costs and does not lead to any increase in drug use.

While our work is not yet complete, Legacy led a bipartisan effort in 2009 that has advanced this issue further than any past session of the Texas Legislature.
Our Legacy is...

Student Matinees
Each year Legacy brings a little wanderlust to the eyes of Houston’s youngest citizens. Legacy takes students from a school in one of the communities that we serve to Houston’s Jones Hall for a matinee performance hosted by the Society for Performing Arts. In January 2009, 250 students from E.O. Smith Middle School and Phillips Wheatley High School were awakened by the sounds and amazed by the stepping at a performance of DRUMLine, a marching band musical with performers from America’s top Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Then in September 2009, 30 students from Kashmere and Barbara Jordan High Schools attended a performance of the Ukrainian National Dance Company, a traditional folk dancing troupe from Eastern Europe.

Annual Luncheon
Legacy’s annual luncheon has grown from a quiet affair to one of Houston’s top fundraising luncheons thanks to several members of our philanthropic family who have chaired the luncheons and helped Legacy raise funds. In October 2008, Melissa Mithoff chaired a successful luncheon, honoring Monisou Taghdisi and Neiman Marcus’ Bob Devlin. In September 2009, Becca Cason Thrash chaired the luncheon and brought friend and charismatic philanthropist, Anthony Kennedy Shriver, to speak to the crowd of 350. The luncheon honored Hilton America’s Paul David Van Atta and PaperCity’s Holly Moore.

Cabaret for a Cure
For two years now, Legacy has hosted an evening of cabaret music to raise funds for our HIV/AIDS programs and services. In 2009, Co-Chairs Paul David Van Atta and Debra and Mark Grierson posthumously honored I.W. Marks and featured the musical talents of Grammy-winner Diane Schuur. In January 2010, Paul David Van Atta and Anita and Gerald Smith honored Trini Mendehall Sosa and Frank Sosa and Shell Oil. Along with a number of local performers, Grammy-winning duo Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis, Jr. entertained the audience.
Our Legacy is... OUR FUTURE

Legacy’s vision for the future is simple: provide more healthcare services to more people. Turning this vision into reality includes developing a network of community clinics where people will feel welcomed and respected while receiving the highest-quality healthcare services regardless of their ability to pay. This vision will also become reality by building a new facility to house a comprehensive set of our services—from primary care to eye and dental care to wellness services—creating a Healthcare Village for the community.

In 2008, Legacy Community Health Endowment, Inc. launched the Building on Our Legacy capital campaign to raise the funds needed to build this new facility. The $15 million campaign is on target to raise its goal, and groundbreaking is scheduled for Summer 2010.

The new facility, to be located at 1415 California Street, will be centrally located inside of the Montrose neighborhood. It will house a state-of-the-art clinic and serve as administrative headquarters for Legacy’s growing neighborhood clinics. The clinic will comprise eight specialty clinics, ten supportive programs, and four education-based community programs. Additionally, the facility and adjoining properties will include reserve space to accommodate future growth of the organization.

With centralized, expanded facilities and additional medical staff, lengthy waiting times for primary healthcare and mental health appointments will be drastically reduced, and more patients will be served at lower costs. Rental of clinical space will be eliminated, and all administrative functions will be located in the new facility, thus eliminating the need to duplicate positions in neighborhood clinics.

We hope that you’ll join us in our vision for the future to create a Healthcare Village for the community. For more information, go to www.buildingonourlegacy.org.

Legacy Community Health Services would like to thank the following donors for their generous contributions to Building on Our Legacy:

The Brown Foundation
The Fonda Foundation
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Steve Allen
Christopher Bacon and Steve Miller
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$50,000 - $99,999
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Healthcare and Nursing Education Foundation
Rockwell Fund

$20,000 - $49,999

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Our Legacy is...

Legacy Community Health Services

A Federally Qualified Health Center offering quality, compassionate healthcare at four clinics in Houston.

We offer a sliding fee scale for uninsured Houstonians.

We accept Medicaid, Medicare, and most health insurance plans.

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