



# COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMS

healthy people • families • communities

Newsletter | Spring 2021

444 Stockbridge Road | Great Barrington, MA 01230 | [chpberkshires.org](http://chpberkshires.org) | Lia Spiliotes, Chief Executive Officer

## There is power in numbers when we all step up.



Friends,  
What a year it has been! As we re-connect with family and friends, we are all humbled

by how Covid-19 has changed our experience and response to serious, contagious disease, and how as a region, we truly support each other in time of need.

At CHP, we are so grateful for the support this community has shown us, as we, in turn, support our community. Restrictions are easing because so many of us are choosing vaccination and we are now experiencing the power of numbers: the more people who step up for vaccination, the faster we can achieve community immunity.

And we are not alone. Our Berkshire Vaccine Collaborative, CHP's Mobile Health Unit, area pharmacies and others are united in advocating for immunity against this disease. Your support has enhanced CHP's role in this collaboration allowing our Mobile Health team to go out and vaccinate some of our most vulnerable friends and neighbors. Since January our team has vaccinated over 3,000 people.

Your Covid response, as donors, has

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## Mission Moment

### ParentChild+: Strengthening Local Families

When Jackie Schultz and Jared Brunner and their kids moved to the area several years ago, they had no connections. They lived in an isolated town, cut off from neighbors and other parents. The couple worked opposite job shifts to care for the children, including an infant. Then, last year, Covid-19 came home and both parents lost their jobs.

The family connected with CHP's medical care, which led them to WIC, playgroups and support programs. But their most meaningful link has been CHP's ParentChild+ program. Matched up with a parent mentor who visits twice weekly, Jackie and Jared have had a helping hand with parenting challenges. They first participated with daughter Rogue (now 6), and now with Lucas, 2. They are happy repeat customers.

ParentChild+ operates in seven countries, 15 states and 36 sites in Massachusetts. Program Director Cynthia Segui, LICSW, oversees four mentors working with 41 young families.

The family was first paired with mentor Amy Boardman from 2016-18. Lucas, mom and dad now work with Olympia Casivant. During Covid-19, they've been meeting outdoors or in Zoom calls.



The program's goal is "school readiness" for children up to age 4.

But mentors bring much more to families, in addition to their training in early childhood development.

"We had been so isolated, and so hustle-and-bustle," says Jackie. "Our mentors helped us to slow down, get on the floor and play, read a book and engage more with our kids." Their oldest son, Logan, is 9, and he's included in family mentoring time, too.

Olympia went above and beyond as a mentor, ensuring the family had help when both parents lost jobs last year. Now they are back to work: Jackie is a certified nursing assistant and Jared works in the grocery business.

Mentoring support brought the family together, says Jackie. She and Jared have

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## ADMINISTRATION

**Amelia (Lia) Spiliotes**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Thomas Walbridge**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Jennifer Wilkinson**  
Chief Operating Officer

**Betsy Strickler**  
Chief Communications Officer

**Karen Johnson**  
Chief Human Resources Officer

**Kenneth Faber, MD**  
Chief Medical Officer (Interim)

**Michelle Derr**  
Director of WIC & Family Services

## BOARD MEMBERS

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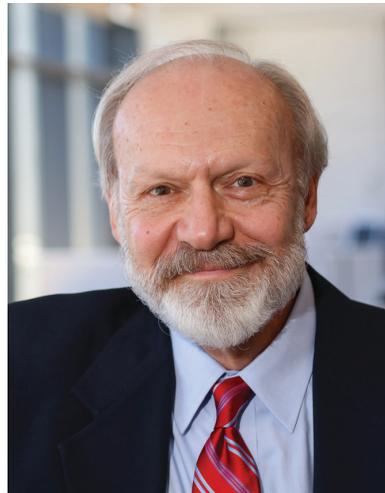
**Rick Gregg**

**Vincent Marinaro**

**Patricia Salomon, MD**

## Donor Spotlight: Rick Gregg

### Board Member Brings Unique Lens to His Role



Rick Gregg's commitment to Community Health Programs stretches back 25 years, when he became a patient of Lee Family Practice. Back then, before the independent practice merged with CHP, its doctors were caring for patients and running the business. This type of demanding double-duty prompted several Berkshire County practices to join CHP for administrative support in the coming years. As a management consultant, Rick advised the Lee practice on managing and expanding, ahead of joining with CHP.

Rick joined the CHP board in 2016 with a unique lens: he was a CHP patient, with extensive experience in healthcare, and married to a local psychiatrist. He was (and is) director of programs in healthcare administration at Suffolk University in Boston. He now chairs the CHP board's education committee and is a member of the strategic planning committee. He is also a generous donor.

"Management is the invisible side of healthcare—from medical records to billing and insurance issues, personnel, facilities and other operations that patients don't see when they come for a visit," says Rick, who lives in Lenox.

Using Covid-19 as an example of good management, Rick noted CHP's rapid adoption of telehealth, parking lot exams and a wide swath of logistical adjustments.

"Everyone was able to keep caring for patients because of support from CHP's practice managers," he says. "We've all paid great honor to front-line caregivers, as we should, but I would expand recognition to the managers behind the scenes."

Rick's financial gifts to CHP are inspired by CHP's broad community role and its equal focus on both health and social services support for families and individuals.

"And by collaborating with many local partners, CHP is not standing alone," he says. "The leadership team does a great job partnering in the community to provide valuable services to the people of the Berkshires."

## Our Mission...

*CHP's mission is to improve the health of people throughout the Berkshires by delivering exceptional, compassionate health care.*

Extend a hand whether or not  
you know it shall be grasped.

*Ryunosuke Satro, Poet*

## Power

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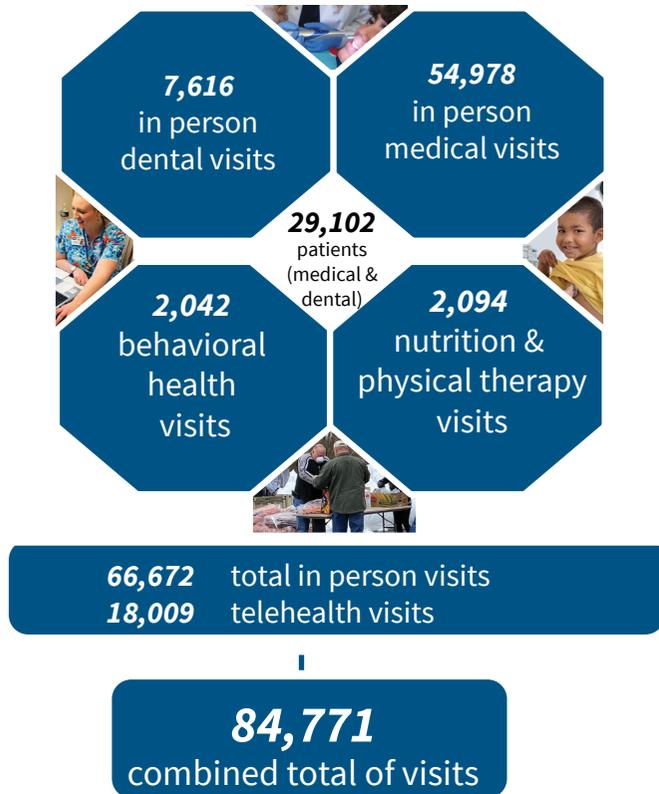
been overwhelmingly generous. Your gifts boost our food security programs, our vaccination efforts, critical support for families, and much more. The economic toll of COVID runs deep and CHP will be here for the long haul, for anyone who needs us. We thank you for your generosity, past, present and future.

With your further support, we can set an example in the Berkshires. Let's put Covid behind us.

Lia Spiliotes

## By The Numbers: Snapshot of how we serve community

2020 was a year of shifting. During that time, in a period of days, CHP staff pivoted quickly to continue to serve our community at our medical centers. While at one point, our business was down 60% our team and our supporters remained steadfast. We continue to encourage patients to come back, to call us, to join us in a telemedicine visit- we know there are people who need to return to their medical home.



*\*based upon 2020 UDS numbers submitted to federal government.  
Data is not confirmed by fed. as of 5.20.21*

## Gifts & Grants

### Recent Grants to CHP include:

- **Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation**  
Pandemic Relief. Emergency support for individuals' basic needs
- **Vitamin Angels - \$54,500**  
Supplemental Food Program for WIC Participants. Protein and produce purchased from local farmers and distributed to clients
- **The Fish Family Foundation:**  
**The Relief Fund for Immigrant Families - \$15,000**  
CharlieCards for patient medical transportation plus cultural competency and language training for staff
- **Mass. League of Community Health Centers - \$25,000**  
CHW/Outreach Vaccines for Underserved Populations Program. Working with community partners to address vaccine hesitancy and disparities
- **Women's Fund of Western MA**  
Food security program support
- **Harvard Medical School Family Van - \$2,947**  
Mobile Health Unit technology
- **Greylock Federal Credit Union - \$4,000**  
Vaccine Education and Outreach for Underserved Populations
- **MountainOne Bank - \$4740**  
Upgrade to exam tables at Berkshire Pediatrics

## Mission Moment

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learned to stop for a moment before reacting to typical conflicts with their children.

"We were so lucky to have made an early connection with CHP, to be able to talk with mentors about everyday issues," said Jackie. "It's brought to light the most important thing in my life, spending time with my children and helping them grow and learn."

**If you know of someone who could benefit from CHP services or the ParentChild+ Program, contact CHP Family Services 413-528-0457.**



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**Employee In Focus**



Meagan Sheridan, Medical Assistant  
CHP Barrington OB-GYN

“As a medical assistant, I love working with patients to help put them at ease before their medical exam. Being a medical assistant is also the perfect stepping to a future career in nursing, and I am now pursuing my nursing education. I couldn’t ask for a better place to work.”

**Do you know someone who would  
be an asset to our team?**

[www.chpberkshires.org/careers](http://www.chpberkshires.org/careers)

*As a federally qualified health center, we care for patients and work with families whose needs are not always reimbursed by health insurance . Your support matters. Please donate today at [chpberkshires.org](http://chpberkshires.org).*