

# First mobile clinic to deliver vital services to HCN's underserved children

Children's Health Fund and the Ho-Chunk Nation to dedicate new mobile health clinic at the Labor Day Pow-Wow

For 1,455 children throughout the Wisconsin Ho-Chunk Nation (HCN), life is about to get a bit healthier. The mobile health clinic is the first of its kind and will make it easier for Ho-Chunk children in more remote communities to get the medical care and services they need.

Children's Health Fund (CHF) has provided the clinic to the HCN Department of Health, which will staff and operate the "doctor's office on wheels."

CHF co-founder and President Irwin Redlener, M.D. will join HCN President Jon Greendeer, Vice President Greg Blackdeer, and Executive Director of Historic Preservation Robert Mann in dedicating the mobile health clinic Saturday, Sept. 1, at 1 p.m. during the HCN Labor Day Pow-Wow at the Andrew Blackhawk Memorial Pow-Wow Grounds.

The custom-designed, state-of-the-art, 39-foot mobile clinic includes two private patient care rooms, a waiting room, a nurse's station and a procedure room, and it is fully equipped to provide all aspects of primary care for children.

"Our greatest successes in language, culture and health begin with our young ones, and we believe the mobile health clinic will play a vital role in our children's future," said President Greendeer. "We look forward to seeing the mobile health clinic pull up to our surrounding communities and be able to provide high quality health care for our children."

Health statistics for HCN children reveal a high prevalence of asthma and obesity, putting children at risk for diabetes and other



Contributed photo

The new Ho-Chunk Nation Children's Health Project's mobile clinic will be dedicated at the Nation's Labor Day weekend pow-wow. The ceremony will be held Saturday, Sept. 1, at 1 p.m. The mobile clinic will provide medical care and services to Ho-Chunk children living in remote areas. The mobile clinic will be based in Black River Falls and is equipped with private patient care rooms, a waiting area, nurse's station and procedure room.

long-term health consequences. In the HCN, the obesity rate is five times the national average and 25 percent of Ho-Chunk adults have diabetes.

"CHF is on the front-lines providing health care in communities throughout the U.S. where children face severe difficulty accessing care. We meet this challenge by bringing medical and health services directly to children and families," said Dr. Redlener. "We are excited about our new partnership with the HCN Department of Health - making it our 25th program - and its potential to reduce barriers to health care that prevent children from reaching their full potential."

The target population for the mobile health clinic includes newborns up through young adults. Offering comprehensive primary care and acute care, the mobile clinic is also equipped to provide laboratory services, vision and hearing screening, immunizations and other preventive care. Patient education regarding well-baby care, asthma management and obesity prevention will be key areas of focus.

The mobile health clinic will travel great distances in Wisconsin from its home base in Black River Falls to remote communities, making trips of up to 120 miles each way. Health services will begin in the fall at satellite health offices in Nekoosa, Tomah and Wittenberg. Additionally, services will be available at Three River House in La Crosse. Appointments can be made by calling the mobile health clinic at 1.888.552.7889.

Dr. Alec Thundercloud, HCN Executive Director of Health, will oversee the medical director for the clinic and will be joined by Kyle Berra, director of Medical Services, and Jess Thill, Community Health Director/Community Health Nurse Supervisor, as part of the mobile health care team.

The Ho-Chunk Nation health clinic is funded by the Idol Gives Back Foundation, the philanthropic organization established by the producers of American Idol and Fox to raise money and awareness to serve children and their families in need throughout

the U.S. and the rest of the world.

The Children's Health Fund was founded in 1987 by singer/songwriter Paul Simon and pediatrician/advocate Irwin Redlener, M.D., Children's Health Fund (CHF) is the nation's leading pediatric provider of mobile-based health care for homeless and low-income children and their families. CHF's mission is to bring health care directly to those in need through the development and support of innovative medical programs, response to public health crises and the promotion of guaranteed access to health care for all children. CHF currently has 50 mobile clinics serving hundreds of locations in 17 states and the District of Columbia. Over the past 25 years, the organization has treated over 350,000 disadvantaged children providing almost three million health care visits, often in places where doctors and health care providers are in short supply. For more information about CHF, visit [www.childrenshealthfund.org](http://www.childrenshealthfund.org).

## Land From Front Page

Holmquist acknowledged there is concern regarding parking for those attending events at the fair park, but noted Black River Falls Mayor Ron Danielson said the building would be a good thing for the city.

"This is nice but I don't know if Jackson County should donate land for this," said County Board member Roger Stevens. "Is it going to benefit the whole county or just Black River Falls?"

"If you build something nice, people are going to come from all over," Holmquist said.

When questioned as to who would own the building, Lunda responded, "I think it should be managed by a board and owned by the county, city or school."

"I don't think the intent is to put the burden on any one entity," shared Holmquist. "We're very sensitive to the issue. We are just beginning the process."

"What's going to happen to the Lunda Center," questioned board member Daniel Iverson.

The presenters explained it would continue to be used by the school district.

"In my opinion you should be commended for having the foresight with this," expressed County Board member William Cornell. "However, it has all the earmarks of a city project."

"The boys and girls club needs a space," added County Board Chairman Dennis Eberhardt. "We need a place for older people to gather, and you may not get someone driving up from Melrose in the winter."

The board passed the resolution with "no" votes expressed by Cornell, Chuck Jensen, Robert Galster and Roger Stevens.

Jackson County Fair Board President Rick Olson said the fair board had heard talks were underway involving the proposed property currently used for fair park parking.

"I don't know where we'd go during the fair if they took that land," Olson said. "We don't have enough space for parking now."

## CTHP From Front Page

Agreement" with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and/or the State of Wisconsin. The agreement requires the county repay a prorated portion of the grant if the project does not generate the number of jobs noted in the application.

The county also had to enter into a secondary "Jobs Rollover Agreement" with North Cliff Corporation and affiliates BMC and Atlas Proppants to reimburse the county for any money required to be repaid to WDOT/State of Wisconsin under the initial agreement.

North Cliff Corporation (parent company of BMC) agreed to pay up to \$144,000 towards the project costs. "This was necessary because we received \$256,000 from the CDBG grant instead of the \$400,000 we applied for," explained Anderson.

The county had committed approximately \$200,000 in funding for design and

miscellaneous expenses.

Following adoption of a policy this summer addressing heavy truck traffic resulting from the growth of sand mining in the county, an industry with heavy truck traffic is now required to finance upgrades to county highways as recommended by the commissioner or designee to be advisable for haul routes. The policy requires the operator to pay for all road maintenance beyond "normal and historic maintenance," which is occasioned by the use of the county highways by motor vehicles and heavy equipment by the operator in conjunction with the construction, operation, maintenance and reclamation of the non-metallic mine.

Amo noted the project would probably cost more money next year, as well.

## Buddy From Front Page

The next step to becoming certified was to train with Cormican. For two days this past week, Ty, along with six other divers, pool trained before putting the skills they'd learned to the test in Lake Wazee before completing their certification.

"Ty is a young man with a lot of spunk and determination," shared Cormican. "It made the last few days for us very inspiring."

"It's all about independence," Al said. "There are kids at these meetings we go to with other families who have a child with spina bifida. There are kids in the same situation Ty was in and they have never walked. They are in wheel chairs. Ty got rid of his walker when he was two years old. We still use a wheelchair when we go places where we're going to be doing a lot of walking. Parents need to give their children independence. It's all about independence."

"And, Keith has been just fantastic. He is specially trained to teach people with disabilities, and he works so hard to adapt diving for those who have disabilities."

Cormican fitted Ty with webbed gloves for his hands to provide more ease when moving through the water. The fins he wears are slit, which also allows for less work when moving in the water.

"I was surprised how strong he is," Cormican said. "I already knew he was doing good underwater, but I was surprised how well he did on the surface. I thought I'd have to help him out swimming. I don't have to. He really is an amazing kid. It was the most gratifying experience I have had in this business."

"We're going to Mexico over spring break," Ty said. "I can't wait to dive and see the coral reefs and fish."

"This is my first time ever doing this," shared dive student Victor Czajka of West Salem. "As a student, Keith keeps everything so relaxed."

"You're my idol, buddy," Czajka said to Ty as the two headed down to the water from Pike's Peak along Lake Wazee, each looking forward to diving into the lake.

**Due to the holiday weekend, news deadline for next week's Banner Journal is noon Thursday, Aug. 30.**

## Lincoln From Front Page

explained. "The other administrators moved into the superintendent's office, allowing easier access."

The new district office will be located just inside the school's main entrance off School Avenue. Once the new office space is com-

plete, the old district office will become the school's weight room. "The old gym is almost like new," Fasbender explained. "There is a new floor and all new striping."

There is also a new gymnasium. Both gyms will be used for athletic events," Fasbender said. "They won't be putting the floor in

the new gym until the commons/cafeteria area are done because that's where they'll be eating lunch."

District residents voted in favor of the \$10.3 million referendum in November 2010. With additional costs resulting from asbestos removal and change orders to the original construction plans, the approximate cost

of the project is just short of \$10.8 million.

An open house is set for Thursday, Aug. 30, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. "It's the same night as student orientation. "I will be providing a walk-through of the school for anyone who wants to come and see what's been done," shared Fasbender.



JoDee Brooke/Banner Journal

The pile of debris above is what remains from the old high school building. Once cleared, the area will provide parking for students, staff and visitors to the Lincoln Junior/Senior High School.