Welcome to the Summer 2015 Lawndale News!
We're excited to share with you a few stories of what's been happening at Lawndale Christian Health Center. In this issue:

- **Blessed to Be a Blessing** - An unexpected pregnancy led Erika to LCHC - the care she received inspired her to change her career path so that she could serve others too.
- **Trusting Care** - Denise recalls what could have happened if she didn't have a doctor she could trust.
- **From Eyesore to Art** - LCHC unveils our newest space to gather, learn and be healthy together.

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Thank You! Your support for our work makes stories and opportunities like these possible. Thank you for partnering with us as we live out our mission to show and share the love of Jesus and promote wellness by providing quality, affordable healthcare to patients living on Chicago's Westside.
Erika Rodela, intern in the Maternal & Child Health Department, smiles as she shares her reason for choosing a profession in social work.

**Blessed to Be a Blessing**

A bright student starting her college degree, Erika Rodela wasn’t yet sure yet she wanted to do. She planned to follow in the footsteps of her successful siblings - majoring in accounting and business. But shortly after starting school, Erika found out she was pregnant. She was scared. When she needed it the most, she lost the support of a parent. But Erika’s mother-in-law told her about Lawndale Christian Health Center and helped her make an appointment.

“I was a teenager and didn’t know what to expect or where to get help or what steps to take to make sure that everything would be okay for me and my baby.” Erika saw a doctor and signed up LCHC’s family case management services to provide some additional help. During her pregnancy, Erika and her LCHC social worker, Liz, grew a strong relationship of trust. “She always gave me the attention I needed. She listened when I spoke. I felt very ashamed but she never once made me feel uncomfortable. As time went on it was easier for me to open up to her. Liz was there for me throughout my entire pregnancy and called me after I had my daughter to congratulate me.”

Erika’s experience helped her realize that she had a passion to help other people - like Liz had helped her. When her daughter was a year and half, Erika decided to go back to school to enter the field of social work. For one of her first assignments, Erika needed to interview someone in the field of social work. She got in touch with Maternal-Child Health Manager, Lupeda Brown. Lupeda mentioned that LCHC hosts social work interns and invited Erika to stay in touch.

Two years later, Erika recently finished a social work internship at LCHC. “I have been interning at Lawndale and have learned so much. There is always someone at Lawndale greeting you, asking how you are. You don’t see that in a lot of clinical settings. I know how it is to be a patient and now I get to be the one to help.”

Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.

2 Corinthians 9:11 (NLT)

Read Erika’s Story Online

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Trustyng Care

As a busy mom, Denise Houston didn’t have time to feel sick. She was stopping by Lawndale Christian Health Center for a quick appointment for a pesky cough before heading over to pick up her kids from school. She didn’t want to be late and told the staff, “just give me the cough medicine and let me go on my way.”

During Denise’s visit, Dr. Rossbach noticed something didn’t seem right. She asked Denise a few questions and then told her she needed serious medical attention right away. Denise remembers the day, “I was arguing – my kids would be out of school soon! I had other demands on my time. But Dr. Rossbach firmly told me it wasn’t just a recommendation - she had called an ambulance and it would be there soon. I was angry, and my mind starting racing. I was worrying my car would get towed - and my kids needed me!”

Dr. Rossbach and the staff at LCHC promised to take care of the car and make sure her children were picked up. She told Denise, “this is about your life and I’m telling you, you’re not looking good.” Denise was worried, but she trusted Dr. Rossbach. The ambulance crew arrived and as the medics were checking her out, Denise’s heart rate plummeted and she flat-lined.

“What a blessing it was: Diabetic, Congestive Heart Failure, High Blood Pressure. I didn’t even realize how many things I had wrong with me. I’ve been [a patient] here ever since. And I don’t argue any more. When Dr. Rossbach tells me I’m not looking good, I listen.”

Denise still has a lot to do - she has a family that needs her and a community that relies on her. But her trusting relationship with Dr. Rossbach and the support of LCHC’s staff will help make sure she’s around for them for many more years to come.

Read Denise’s Story Online
From Eyesore to Art

For 30 years, Lawndale Christian Health Center has invested in creating beautiful buildings that inspire hope for a healthier community in a neighborhood where empty and abandoned building still remind many of the difficult times North Lawndale has been through. Until recently, LCHC’s main Ogden campus consisted of two beautiful health clinics, a social services building, community gardens, an eye clinic - and standing in the midst - an eyesore.

After years of negotiations, LCHC acquired the aging building. LCHC is blessed to have a talented architect on staff that helped develop a vision for the building. Joseph Lesch, M. Arch, recalls, “We knew the building could provide space that people in our community have been asking for – space to gather, learn, and be healthy together. Throughout the project, we set out to balance a respect for original detailing with modern elements to create a building unlike any other on LCHC’s campus. The reaction to its transformation has been incredibly positive, reaffirming the decision to restore an original piece of neighborhood history and give it back to the community to use.”

It took a year, but ‘The Gallery at 3824’ was officially opened on July 8 with a staff event and blessing of the new space. The Gallery at 3824 offers LCHC’s newest beautiful space for health education, group medical care, and special events. Neighborhood residents and partners are invited to experience the Lawndale community in a truly special setting.

If you’d like to discuss renting The Gallery at 3824 – which accommodates groups from 8 – 80, please send an email to Events@lawndale.org. The space would be perfect for a small business event, family Christmas party, board meeting and more. LCHC looks forward to hosting you and your group soon!

Read About the Gallery Online