

PROVIDENCE

Spirit

On the PH&S Oregon Intranet at <http://phsnet.phsor.org/spirit>



Priscilla Lewis, Providence regional director of community services and development (left), talks with Alberto Moreno, Oregon's migrant health coordinator (center), and Gil Munoz, Virginia Garcia Memorial Clinic chief executive, at the Health Care Hero Award ceremony.

Providence earns 'hero' honor

Since the mid-1970s, Virginia Garcia Memorial Clinic and Providence St. Vincent have formed a deep partnership to protect the health of low-income and uninsured residents in Yamhill and Washington counties, including migrant and seasonal farm workers and their families.

Recently, the clinic recognized the partnership with an award given during National Health Center Week and Migrant Farm Worker Health Day.

Congressman David Wu, D-Ore., and other officials joined Virginia Garcia's chief executive, Gil Munoz, in presenting the Health Care Hero Award to Providence and two clinic nurses who worked to bring needed care to a vulnerable population in western Washington County.

According to Alberto Moreno, migrant health coordinator for the State of Oregon, people working on farms are subject to chemical poisoning, infant mortality rates of up to 25 percent and average life spans of 49 years. To help deal with these problems, the Virginia Garcia clinic opens its doors to migrant workers and others without insurance, and it has a mobile medical clinic that this year served 676 patients in migrant worker camps.

Over the years, Providence has provided more than \$1 million to help fund equipment and services of Virginia Garcia, and many Providence physicians, nurses and others have volunteered at its clinics.

Providence active in health reform

Few topics are gathering more public attention right now than health care reform. Town halls are filled because people want to understand the proposals in Congress and how it will affect them and their families. It seems like everyone is talking about ways to change the health care system.

Inspired by our Mission of compassionate care for all, Providence has, for many years, been a strong advocate for health care reform. The Providence view is that health care is a basic human right. Reform can and should lead to better access, improved affordability and quality, and more efficient ways to deliver care. Providence looks forward to the day when no one has to worry about getting care when illness strikes.

Employees have asked what Providence is doing and saying about reform. Providence leaders have been active, talking with members of Congress and many others to share the organization's priorities and concerns. Learn more about Providence's views on its health care reform Web site, <http://www.providence.org/oregon/providence-on-reform/default.htm>.

On this site, employees can read about why Providence believes end-of-life care planning is important.

When Congress returns to D.C. in September, three bills – two in the Senate and one in the House – must be negotiated into one final bill. The bills all are different and many changes will happen before a reform bill is finished.

Providence believes the time is right for changes, developed through open, fair discussion, that improve health care for everyone.

A rainbow over Bridge Pedal



A rider in the Aug. 9 Providence Bridge Pedal shows off a mane of colorful balloons at a rest stop. For a story and more photos, see page 8.