

# GRANTMAKER FOCUS

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## North Penn Community Health Foundation

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The North Penn Community Health Foundation (NPCHF) operates as a public charity, serving portions of eastern Montgomery County and western central Bucks County in Pennsylvania. Established in 2002 through an asset purchase agreement related to the former North Penn Hospital, the foundation's mission is to identify, select, and invest in programs and agencies that will improve the health, welfare, and quality of life of the community.

**Program Information:** The foundation's funding activities center on its pursuit of four key objectives: to be a catalyst for change to advance health care services, education, and research; to promote lasting value for health care; to serve as an advocate in health care issues affecting the community; and to support innovative approaches to solutions for the health and welfare needs of the community. Specific health funding priorities include: promoting access to health and human services for at-risk populations, including the underinsured and uninsured; promoting the use of volunteers; and promoting wellness and informed decisionmaking through prevention and education.

### ► Financial Information:

Total Assets: Approximately \$43.8 million (FY 2005)  
Amount Dedicated to Health Grants: \$596,095 (FY 2005)

### ► Special Initiatives and Representative Health Grantees

- **Health Promotion Council of Southeastern Pennsylvania (HPC)** – HPC is working with two local school districts to develop an obesity prevention and nutrition pilot project targeting children in kindergarten through fifth grade and their families. HPC plans to build upon existing evidence-based models for use in the classroom and school community. This initiative proposes to reach a total of 5,800 children, parents, and school personnel, in addition to connecting with school board and community members (\$100,000 over 15 months).
- **Montgomery County Community College Foundation** – Following an initial feasibility assessment, NPCHF has supported an oral health initiative at the community college for two years. This grant provides support for direct patient care and community education. To date, more than 450 children have received dental sealants, varnish, or both; and 1,000 children participating in the *Head Start* and *WIC* programs have received fluoride treatments. Over the next year, the grantee plans to provide education about the benefits of fluoride varnish to at least 100 pediatric health care providers and supply them with 1,000 unit doses for patients (grants totaling \$233,000 over three years).

- **Promoting Access to Primary Care Initiative** – This initiative seeks to address the demand for uncompensated health care services, which continues to exceed available resources. While the NPCHF and the local community continue to explore strategies that may improve this situation, the foundation recognizes that the needs of the community require these safety net providers to remain viable sources of primary and oral health care services. To that end, four local providers that do not qualify for state or federal subsidies received support to underwrite the costs of direct patient care for underinsured and uninsured children and adults (\$235,000 over three years).
- **North Penn Visiting Nurse Association** – When the community education program at the local hospital ended, the foundation provided financial support to continue offering educational programs that target at-risk individuals and families who are not likely to have a primary medical home and the support agencies that served these individuals. The program focuses on vulnerable populations, including the underinsured and uninsured, and aims to ameliorate the high incidence of chronic health conditions, such as hypertension, diabetes, stroke, cancer, elevated cholesterol, and cardiovascular disease (grants totaling \$105,000 over three years).

### Role of Philanthropy in Meeting Pressing Needs:

*"Our approach to grantmaking focuses on identifying and building key partnerships with our grantees. Together we are working to make a difference in the lives of community residents. Our work attempts to build upon the best practices of a business model where inputs generate meaningful returns. Our work also requires that our partners remain financially stable and viable organizations. To this end, the foundation created the North Penn Nonprofit Academy, where nonprofit board members and leadership staff learn how to implement and sustain healthy business practices. Aside from the academy, the foundation uses grantmaking to develop a dialogue and improve a mutual understanding of how existing or proposed programs are meeting the needs of community residents."*

**RUSSELL JOHNSON**  
Executive Director

