



# National Health Foundation e-News

*Bridging Gaps in Healthcare*

September/October 2011

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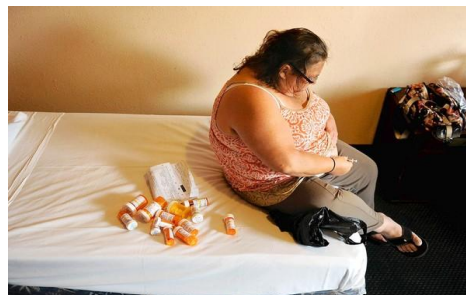
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## Greetings!

Welcome to the September/October 2011 edition of the National Health Foundation's (NHF) Newsletter! NHF's e-News & Information is a bi-monthly e-publication designed to keep interested parties up-to-date on current projects, special events, and activities taking place at NHF.



## **After the Hospital - A Haven for Homeless Patients to Recuperate**

On October 1st, 2010, in partnership with the Hospital Association of Southern California and the Illumination Foundation, NHF opened the Recuperative Care

Center of Los Angeles. Using best practices identified in the original Los Angeles Recuperative Care pilot project, the center provides hospitals a safe and appropriate discharge option for their homeless patients, while giving the homeless individual being discharged both the necessary medical aftercare, as well as assistance connecting to support services and housing options. Currently, 35 hospitals are contracted to use the center; 31 private and 4 county.

Read more: <http://www.latimes.com/health/healthcare/la-me-homeless-care-20110828,0,1806306.story>

### **Patient Safety First in the News**

Patient Safety First...A California Partnership for Health was recently the subject of a front page article in the Los Angeles Times. National Health Foundation is the evaluator and program manager for this \$6 million dollar initiative which links Hospital Associations across the state of California in a coordinated effort to improve patient safety and quality of care.

Read more: [www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-hospital-infections-20110823,0,1452290.story](http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-hospital-infections-20110823,0,1452290.story)

### **Heart Help Program Completes Its Second Year**

September 1, 2011 marks the second year of the Los Angeles Chronic Disease Management Consortium's (CDMC) Heart Healthy Eating Lifestyle Program (Heart HELP). Heart HELP is a community based program that addresses the needs of low-income ethnically diverse populations to reduce risk, delay onset, and/or reduce progression of cardiovascular disease (CVD). Generous funding from the Good Hope Medical Foundation & Watts Health Foundation has enabled California Hospital Medical Center, Huntington Memorial Hospital and Good Samaritan Hospital in partnership with National Health Foundation to offer this program to patients and community members free of charge for the duration of three years.

Over the last two years, Heart HELP partners have enrolled over 1,000 individuals into the program of which 847 individuals have completed the program. Hospitals have collectively conducted 703 Heart HELP classes in Spanish and English. Favorable and impressive outcomes have been achieved by the program to-date. Current data shows that at the end of the program, 78% of participants increased their fruit and vegetable consumption and approximately 40% of participants that started the program with above normal blood pressure reduced their blood pressure by one or more categories by the end of the program. Program partners will continue to work toward reaching outcome targets during the third and last year of the program. A comprehensive final program report will be released in 2012.

For more information on Heart HELP, please contact Mia Arias, Program Director: [marias@nhfca.org](mailto:marias@nhfca.org)

## **California Hospital-Based Palliative Care Survey**

National Health Foundation is once again working with the University of California, San Francisco, Palliative Care Team (UCSF/PCT) to undertake the 2<sup>nd</sup> California Hospital-Based Palliative Care Survey. Funded by the California Healthcare Foundation, the overall project objective is to determine the prevalence and characteristics of hospital-based palliative care services in California by conducting a survey of all adult and pediatric acute care hospitals in the state. Further, this survey will analyze what changes have offered to Hospital based services since the last survey in 2007. The survey was distributed on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011 to all 383 acute care hospitals in California. The California Healthcare Foundation expects to release a report on the findings around the new year.

## **National Health Foundation - Annual Report 2011**

### **[Annual Report 2011](#)**

*The National Health Foundation's mission is to improve the health of the underserved by creating systemic solutions to gaps in healthcare access and delivery systems. To do this, NHF strives to address those issues that are most important in our community, such as: chronic disease prevention and management, uninsured families, and gaps in the healthcare delivery system.*

*In addressing barriers to healthcare access, the National Health Foundation provides services such as research, evaluation, facilitation, collaboration, training and education, and web-based technology support to hospitals, health plans, government agencies, nonprofits, community business organizations childcare providers, and other community service organizations.*

***Sincerely,***

*Carlyne C. Ervin*

*National Health Foundation*

Email: [cervin@nhfca.org](mailto:cervin@nhfca.org)

Web: <http://www.nhfca.org>

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