

Table of Contents

- [Erie in the News](#)
- [Erie's 2016 Annual Luncheon](#)
- [Provider Spotlight: Dr. Fred Rachman](#)
- [Funder Spotlight: Walmart's Hispanic Day of Giving](#)
- [Thank you for Supporting Eriedescence 2016!](#)

Erie in the News: Humboldt Park Health Center Eases Fears of Being 16 and Pregnant



Being 16 and pregnant is much more real than any MTV reality show.

When Yesenia Feliciano walked into the Erie Teen Center as a pregnant teenager, she

was scared. Her mind was racing, wondering what the employees sitting behind the desk were thinking.

“They don’t know what I’m here for,” she tried to convince herself. “Do they know? Do they?”

Fourteen years later, Feliciano is on the other side of that desk where she is usually the first person to greet teens. The Erie Teen Center, which has been around since 1985 in various locations, moved into its new home at 2418 W. Division St. in November and plans to expand even more at that location this summer.

“I have patients who have had similar situations to mine and I’m able to just talk to them,” said Feliciano, 30. “I feel like I’ve empowered some girls.”

There are times teens — some pregnant, others seeking reproductive health services or testing — come in with parents, but often times they don’t. Regardless of their reason, the goal of the health center is to make new patients as comfortable as possible.

As the only freestanding teen-only center of its kind in the city, the center provides specialized services for teens and young adults, offering a confidential space where they don’t have to worry about running into a neighbor or elder.

In the state of Illinois, patients 12 years and older, both males and females, can seek care on their own.

The center offers free pregnancy and STI/HIV testing as well as reproductive services, counseling and behavioral health counseling.

Feliciano’s experience is a big reason she came back to work at the Erie Center eight years ago, and why she plans to keep working there until she retires.

“By the time I left, I felt better. Every time I came my confidence was building up,” Feliciano said. “I was not ashamed anymore being 16 and pregnant. I knew because of my clinic and everyone there. They offered so much and they empowered me.”

The main message she took away was that “things happen, and you are going to be OK.”

Feliciano said her grades went up, she graduated high school and now has a family. Her now 13-year-old son attends private school and is on the honor roll.

The teen health center is still trying to get the word out about its new home, and its director anticipates about 2,000 individual patients this year will make between 8,000 and 10,000 visits.

The move from Ravenswood to Humboldt Park brings the center closer to the heart of the city, and more conveniently

April 2016 E-Spotlight

accessible to more patients.

“Historically, data shows that when you look at the City of Chicago that teen pregnancy rates, STD rates, HIV rates are much greater here than in other parts of the city where we were previously located,” said Robin Varnado, director of behavioral and adolescent health for Erie.

The key is to keep things positive.

“You have to be bubbly when you work here,” Feliciano said. “Patients are nervous and you can tell, sometimes, when you have new patients.”

Many of the patients are faced with adversity, poverty and life challenges.

“This is not just a clinic,” Feliciano said. It’s a family.”

Authored by Paul Biasco. Published February 11, 2016 in [DNAinfo](#).

2016 Annual Luncheon



Friday, May 13, 2016
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
[Four Seasons Hotel Chicago](#)
120 East Delaware Place
Chicago, Illinois

The 2016 Annual Luncheon will bring together corporate, civic and health care leaders to celebrate the role of community health centers. Erie will also honor leaders and innovators in the health care field who have made a difference in the lives of Erie patients and our community, including Alejandra Valencia,

DDS, MS, MPH, Director of the Oral Health Forum; the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County; and Emily A. Benfer, Founder and Director of the Loyola Health Justice Project.

We are also proud to welcome Dr. Fitzhugh Mullan, Murdock Head Professor of Medicine and Health Policy at The George Washington University School of Public Health, as our Keynote Speaker.

To learn more about hosting a table or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Kate Birdwell at kbirdwell@eriefamilyhealth.org.

[Reserve your place at the 2016 Annual Luncheon today!](#)

Provider Spotlight: Dr. Fred Rachman

Pediatrician Spotlight



Dr. Fred Rachman’s influence extends beyond the high quality of care he delivers to his pediatric patients at Erie. A true Erie “veteran”, Dr. Rachman ar-

rived at Erie in 1985 with an impressive background and a commitment to Erie’s mission to provide high quality care to patients in need. It was his personal mission to catalyze community health centers and systematically use data to drive quality and improve public health that have set him apart and made him a thought leader in the field.

Dr. Rachman received his bachelor of arts in biology from John Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland before attending medical school at Temple University in Philadelphia. He completed his residency in pediatrics at Albert Einstein Medical Center, and went on to enroll in post-graduate courses in ethics, economics, and health care management at Harvard University’s School of Public Health.

April 2016 E-Spotlight

He states he was attracted to Erie because it was “integrated with the community and had a broader view of health.” In addition to his devotion to his Erie patients, Dr. Rachman is an attending physician at the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago and Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

His leadership can be witnessed in his role as co-founder and CEO of the Alliance of Chicago Community Health Services, where he has been since the Alliance’s inception in 1997. Erie Family Health Center, along with Heartland Health Outreach, Howard Brown Health Center, and Near North Health Service Corporation, are founding members of the Alliance, which has grown to include more than 25 community health centers around the country. The Alliance promotes the thoughtful use of Health Information Technology in the safety net sector to promote access, improve quality and increase efficiency of health care services.

During his time with the Alliance, Dr. Rachman has overseen the successful execution of an electronic health record system (EHRS) that serves as a platform for community health centers nationwide to manage patient information and better drive quality outcomes. In fact, Erie’s use of its EHRS to track patient health outcomes and monitor quality has led Erie to receive national recognition as a Health Center Quality Leader, and improved the health – and lives – of countless patients.

Driven by his vision of a data-driven, quality-focused approach to public health, he has undertaken a wide range of innovative research projects. For example, he collaborated with the Chicago Department of Public Health funded by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on a pilot program that provides instant alerts to physicians if a patient’s symptoms match a disease profile. This measure allows public health alerts to be issued early, which could contain outbreaks of contagious diseases or foodborne illnesses. “This type of rapid dissemination of relevant, up-to-the-minute information to clinicians demonstrates how public health oriented clinical decision support could enable us to manage disease,” said Dr. Rachman.

He was also part of advancing EHRS capabilities to help improve quality of care and patient outcomes at Erie. For example, Erie can now generate a list of patients who haven’t been seen in over a year or who are overdue for screening and testing. We then personally follow-up with these patients, address any challenges to accessing care and schedule an appointment with the patient’s primary care provider. This has helped ensure our diabetic patients are not missing appointments, women are receiving recommended mammograms, and much more.

Dr. Rachman has been a vital member of our team here at Erie Family Health Center. He has demonstrated devotion to his patients, leadership in the health information management field and commitment to clinical research that has benefited not just Erie, but community health centers – and communities – across the nation.

Funder Spotlight: Walmart’s Hispanic Day of Giving

Erie Family Health Center was honored to receive a \$40,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation and the Illinois State Giving Advisory Council to support Erie’s Oral Health Program, particularly for underserved children and pregnant women. The Walmart



Foundation celebrated this donation along with its gifts to three other Hispanic-serving organizations in the community on February 25 in a public event at the Hermosa Walmart Supercenter.

Erie Clinical Director of Oral Health Lisa Kearney, DDS, said “We are so pleased to have a partner like the Walmart Foundation to support regular dental care for our patients, which is crucial to overall health and quality of life. With Walmart’s support, we will grow the number of patients we serve and continue to engage them in care at our integrated, co-located dental and medical homes and to provide the support they need to help ensure patients lead healthier lives.”

April 2016 E-Spotlight

Eric Galle, Store Manager of the Hermosa Walmart Supercenter, said: “From health care to heritage to workforce development, these grants help the Hispanic community of Chicago live better. We are proud to support these organizations because we know that support like this is essential to building strong communities.” Gifts presented by Walmart totaled \$140,000 and in addition to Erie, included Mujeres Latinas En Acción, Puerto Rican Arts Alliance, and Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement.

The grant from Walmart Foundation to Erie will support the expanding Oral Health Program at Erie Humboldt Park, Erie Foster Avenue, Erie Evanston/Skokie, and Erie HealthReach Waukegan Health Centers. With robust recruitment and retention activities and Walmart’s support, we expect our practice to grow this year to serving 11,500 patients, primarily children and pregnant women, and to provide oral health education to 1,500 community members.

Thank You For Supporting Eriedescence 2016!

On March 10, community health advocates and professionals from across the Chicagoland area came together at Ovation Chicago to raise funds for Erie’s health education programs. Eriedescence was hosted by the Auxiliary Council, Erie’s



young professionals board. Together, we raised more than \$55,000 for programs like Cooking Matters, Running Club, and Diabetes Month-by-Month—all free resources that help our patient

lead healthy lives. Eriedescence also raised over \$8,000 for Reach Out and Read, a program that encourages parents to read to their children to jumpstart their education. Thank you for partnering with us – and we hope to see you at next year’s event!

[Check out the photos on Facebook.](#)

Your contribution ensures that Erie’s services will remain accessible and affordable for anyone who needs them. Thank you for giving our patients hope for a healthier future.

Donate Now!

If you have a question about donating to Erie or the programs your support helps make possible, please contact Kate Birdwell at 312.432.7440 or e-mail her at kbirdwell@eriefamilyhealth.org.