CARE Center is a model for low-income families

Caring for thousands of kids each year through a variety of medical services became too much for the former San Marcos Care Center. The center was forced to close its cramped quarters during the fall semester at San Marcos Elementary School, the facility has been renamed more fitting, 8,800-square-foot, free-standing building at Gilead Elementary School. It also carries a new name: The Chandler CARE Center.

The center provides free medical treatment to more than 1,800 uninsured, poverty-level children in Chandler. With the new LEED-certified facility, administrators expect that number to at least double.

What makes this operation so special is that many medical, dental, counseling and social services organizations donate professional time at the Chandler CARE Center.

About the facility

The CARE Center’s target population is uninsured children from families with little or no income who live anywhere in the city of Chandler. In its first year, the center has provided medical assistance and immunizations to more than 30,000 uninsured youths; in need.
Contact the center, 777 E. Galveston St., at 485-892-7900.

The center, so there is no charge to any family or the school district for services. Volunteer organization include private practitioners as well as staff from larger entities such as Cigna and Banner Health.

In fact, out-of-pocket expenses for the center are just 20 percent of actual operating budget, as virtually all professional services are donated.

Free vouchers for needed medications, medical lab tests and medical imaging are provided in part by funds from Chandler’s Housing and Human Services.

MY TURN

Commission and donations from Chandler Unified School District employees. To help the children’s clinic leverage this funding, several local businesses provide services at 25 percent to 70 percent off their customary prices.

Catholic Healthcare West provides free fluoride-varnish treatments, dental cleanings and X-rays, while volunteer dentists provide restorative services.

The center also provides a weekly immunization clinic at no charge in partnership with Catholic Healthcare West and the Chandler Fire Department.

But the center goes well beyond health care. More than 7,000 needy Chandler residents receive food, clothing, and/or household items. The Chandler Public Library staff distributes free books in English or Spanish to children in the clinic, while taking the opportunity to register parents for library cards.

The city provided $500,000 toward the construction of the new building.

The center’s administrator, Susan Horan, could fill volumes with her stories of the help local families have received. It is the drive to provide for care, and there are many tales of kids showing no fear in sometimes dire circumstances, because of the caring environment of the center and its dedicated and caring staff.

The Chandler CARE Center has a long history of successfully providing the health-care and social services that uninsured, poverty-level children needed to enter and succeed in school. With its new center built entirely on a foundation of public support, the center will continue as a model for improving the health, well-being and educational achievement of needy youth and parents in Chandler.

Jack Sellers is a Chandler City Council member.

CHANDLER NEWS

‘Month to Stamp Out Hate’ exhibit opens at Barnear Center

By Weldon B. Johnson

The Republic/azcentral.com

Never forget, never again.

That’s the underlying theme behind a series of artwork being exhibited at the Barnear Valley Jewish Community Center and other venues in the Valley this April.

“A Month to Stamp Out Hate” includes an art exhibit on the Holocaust and the ongoing genocide in Darfur, Sudan, and a documentary film and play on the subject.

The exhibit opens Thursday at the East Valley Jewish Community Center, 908 N. Alma School Road in Chandler, runs through April 30. The documentary “Our Story ... The Life of Survivors: Faces of the Holocaust” will be screened at the East Valley Jewish Community Center for the Arts and April 14 at Xavier College Preparatory in Phoenix.

The play, “The Last, The Very Last Bus,” will be presented April 24 at the Chandler Center for the Arts.

The “never forget” portion of the theme deals with words and images depicting the Holocaust, which resulted in the deaths of millions of people in Europe in the 1930s and 1940s. The theme also reminds the idea that more should be done to prevent genocides.

Stevie Tepper, executive director for the JCC, said atrocities continue.

“When you talk with Holocaust survivors, they don’t believe that it has happened since,” Tepper said. That’s

About the film

East Valley Jewish Community Center Executive Director Tami Taps is working with local filmmaker Jason Heinold about putting together a short video about the upcoming events surrounding the exhibit and the film. A Month to Stamp Out Hate.”

Heinold realized quickly that wasn’t enough time to do the subject justice.

“So the Holocaust survivors, the liberators, I think it’s important that their presence to grow big,” Heinold said. “After a few more meetings about this, we con

‘It really tells the story of what they’re doing and the remaining years of a program. We have the presence to grow big,” Heinold said. “After a few more meetings about this, we struc

Schedule of events

Art exhibit April 8-30 at the East Valley Jewish Community Center, 908 N. Alma School Road in Chandler. Exhibit is free and open to the public during Monday-Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons. For information, including specific times, call the center at 485-897-0588.

Art exhibit includes:

Darfur: Photojournalists Respond: Photo essay on Darfur, Sudan. Photographs are presented courtesy of the Holocaust Museum Houston.

Six Local Faces of the Holocaust: Multiple art exhibit. The artwork is accompanied by the stories of the people they depict and historical documentation.

Das Ghetto and the Final Solution: A collection of paintings by artist Hein Weisman (www.hein-weisman.com) was born to Holocaust survivors in Umschlagplatz in Germany in a displaced persons camp. The collection depicts a timeline of Jewish life before, during and after the Holocaust.

Communitywide: The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, April 19, 1943-May 16, 1943: A collection of four oil paintings by Wladystaw Bronislaw. Bronislaw was a Polish citizen and resistance fighter during Poland’s occupation by Germany from 1939-45.

Documentary film

Our Story ... The Life of Survivors: Faces of the Holocaust. April 13 at the Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N. Arizona Ave. Panel discussion begins at 6:15 p.m., film begins at 7:15.

Tickets are $4 for students and $8 for adults. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance by calling the Jewish Community Center at 485-897-0588 or by visiting www.choicenter.org.

The panel discussion will feature members of the Arizona Lost Boys and local Holocaust survivors and will focus on survival and home. The lobby of the center will also host organizations against hate and discrimination around the world. The film will be screened April 14 at Xavier College Preparatory, 4710 N. 58th St. in central Phoenix.

The panel discussion will take place at 6:15 p.m.

Tickets are $5 (general admission) and can be purchased at the door or in advance by calling the school at 602-277-5772.

Play

The Last, the Very Last Bus: 7:30 p.m., April 13 at the Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N. Arizona Ave. A play presented by the Pushcart Players, is an adaptation of the book “Das Ghetto and the Final Solution.”

The play is a Holocaust commemoration piece geared for audiences ages 10 and older.

Tickets from $20 to $60 are available by calling the JCC at 485-897-0588 or by visiting www.choicenter.org. Tickets priced at $40 include a copy of the book. $60 tickets include the book, wine and dessert reception following the performance. Proceeds benefit Phoenix College Student Emergency Funds and the cast.

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