

Lahai Times

The Quarterly Newsletter of Lahai Health

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Busy Days: Patient Count Exceeds Expectations

With 2021 half over, Lahai Health is already seeing far more medical and dental patients, and scheduling far more mental health counseling hours, than we had anticipated. "These are busy days," says Medical Clinic Director Candy McDonald. "The demand for the services we provide has never been greater, and I'm so proud of our staff and volunteers for their hard work!"

Through the end of May 2021, Lahai has served nearly 3 times the number of dental patients we had anticipated, says Executive Director Dave Eller. "Our dental team, along with students from the UW School of Dentistry, have conducted 915 patient appointments," he reports. "That's 50 percent higher than where we thought we would be." In the same vein, Eller adds, our medical clinics have already served over 500 patients compared with the 300 we had projected. "Our mental health counselors have provided 40 percent more counseling hours than we had anticipated," he says. "What a blessing to be able to serve those in need, and to see God bring the resources to make it happen!"

"The demand for the services we provide has never been greater, and I'm so proud of our staff and volunteers for their hard work!"

Candy McDonald,
Medical Clinic Director

Clinic Spotlight: Snohomish

Twice each month, the Lahai Mobile Medical Clinic (or MMC) visits CrossView Church on Avenue C in Snohomish. This is our northernmost clinic, made possible by generous support from community churches in Snohomish.

As in all of Lahai's regular clinics, we see patients by appointment, providing primary medical care through the combined efforts of staff and volunteers. Because of COVID, Lahai's mobile clinic at Snohomish shifted completely to telehealth appointments starting in April 2020 and slowly resumed face-to-face appointments during the summer of 2020. By March 2021 all of our providers had returned and we were fully reopened.

Between January 1 and May 31, 2021, we have conducted 80 patient appointments in Snohomish, 70 in-person and 10 via telehealth. The Snohomish site is highly sought after by patients who live in Everett who can't drive down into Lynnwood and Seattle. For the past 2 months, all available appointments have been filled for clinics on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings each month. The majority of the patients speak Spanish with little to no English.

LAHAI NEEDS VOLUNTEERS IN SNOHOMISH!

We are in need of volunteer health care providers who can serve in our Snohomish clinic once each month. We also need a volunteer nurse, a Spanish interpreter, and a receptionist. We can always use volunteer specialists: physical therapists, nutritionists, and chiropractors, for example. (Some of these positions could be done via telehealth.)

For information, please email brandisr@lahai.org or call (206) 899-4754. Thank you!



Twice each month, Lahai's Mobile Medical Clinic visits CrossView Church in Snohomish. Our work there is supported by many Snohomish community churches.



From the Executive Director:

A few months back I celebrated my 2 year anniversary as Lahai's Executive Director. Who could have known that half that time would be spent dealing with an unprecedented global pandemic that would impact us all? Beginning in March, 2020, all of us found ourselves in unknown territory.

It's amazing to me to reflect back on how quickly our medical team and our mental health counselors adjusted. They immediately made the jump to telehealth and began serving patients and clients by video and phone. Fortunately Lahai was able to secure grant funds that allowed us to upgrade our telehealth systems, adding important features such as the ability to include a translator on the call. While seeing patients in person is generally best, so far in 2021 about 20 percent of our 900-plus patient visits have used telehealth, and our mental health counselors use it for most appointments.

"It's not about numbers. It's about people — men and women in need of care. Every interaction with a client or a patient is a chance to touch a life in Jesus's Name."

David Eller, Executive Director

1,800 patient visits last year. When combined with more than 2,150 medical appointments and more than 2,500 hours of mental health counseling, Lahai staff and volunteers interacted with patients and clients almost 6,500 times in 2020!


As gratifying as that is, though, all of us at Lahai understand one simple fact. At the end of the day, it's not about numbers. It's about people — men and women in need of care. Every interaction with a client or a patient is a chance to touch a life in Jesus's Name and to bring His light in difficult circumstances. Thanks to all our staff, our volunteers, our donors and partners for allowing us to serve in such a profound way!



Watch | Pray | Give

09|28|21 | 7:11pm

Share the Care



Mark your calendars!

Lahai's Share the Care live-streamed telethon returns September 28th, beginning at 7:11pm. Can you change a life in just 49 minutes? Find out how! Online at Lahai.org.

To make an early donation, click **DONATE** at Lahai.org.

Join the Lahai Team!

We have several open positions — could one of them be right for you?

- Dental Hygienist (PT)
- Nurse Case Manager (PT)
- Dental Receptionist (PT)
- Volunteer Assistant (PT)
- Mobile Medical Clinic Driver (PT) * (requires CDL)

Email debrah@lahai.org

Lahai serves medical and dental patients in North King and South Snohomish Counties.