

# EDITORIAL PAGE

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Sunday, May 10, 2009

Want to send in a letter to the editor?  
E-mail: [cgarrett@uvaldeleadernews.com](mailto:cgarrett@uvaldeleadernews.com)

## LEADER-NEWS EDITORIAL BOARD

# Affordable health care

With 77 percent of its \$5.4 million goal to build a new Center for Community Wellness in hand, Community Health Development, Inc. is continuing to demonstrate that when there is a health care need, the agency is not afraid to step up to the plate.

In fact, the 15,000-square-foot wellness center located at 908 S. Evans is already under construction with a planned opening in the fall of this year.

Once completed, the facility will enable CHDI to serve 14,000 patients annually, provide three times as many dental care visits to thousands of additional patients each year, offer twice as many health education classes and operate a comprehensive and affordable mental-behavioral health department.

Also planned is a 4,200 square-foot exercise/fitness facility to promote physical activity and improve clinical outcomes for chronically ill patients and a 6,000-square-foot administrative office building to house human resource, administrative, fiscal, information technology and billing staff.

Founded in 1983, CHDI has grown from an initial staff of four to more than 100, operating on an annual budget of about \$6 million. According to CHDI research, the agency serves approximately 83 percent of the area's residents determined to be living

in poverty and 62 percent of the region's uninsured.

"We are not just a clinic anymore, we are so much more than that. Our Health is a one-stop shop for their patients," according to CHDI chief executive Rachel Gonzales-Hanson.

In addition to the Our Health/Nuestro Centro de Salud clinic at 200 S. Evans in Uvalde, CHDI also operates Rolling Hills Health in Leakey and Canyon Health Center in Camp Wood.

We congratulate Gonzales-Hanson and the members of the capital campaign committee who have raised \$4.1 million of the \$5.4 million needed for the new facility in Uvalde. Given the demographics of our region that show about 30 percent live in poverty and the fact that 47 million Americans are uninsured, there is no question about the need for more accessible health care.

We encourage you to help with this unfinished cause by making a donation of any amount to the "Our Community...Our Health" capital campaign.

**To make a donation make checks payable to CHDI Capital Campaign and mail to CHDI, 201 S. Evans, Uvalde, TX 78801**



## Remember when?

Compiled by Carol Kothmann from *Leader-News* files

# Top grads lead class act 10 years ago

May 6, 1999

Top grads lead class act of

May 9, 1999

Seniors enlist in military future - Three Uvalde High School seniors have accepted

dent Sterling H. Fly and college dean Wayne Matthews. In the event of rain the program will be held in one of the hangars at