

Foundation Grant Helps Keep Health Wagon Rolling

When the board of directors of The LogistiCare Foundation met in early July 2007 for its annual review of grant applications, one of its most compelling applications came from a Virginia organization, the St. Mary's Health Wagon.

"When you look at what they do, where they do it and the great need that exists for healthcare, we couldn't help but offer our support," said LogistiCare Foundation board member Joseph Handy, a CPA from Miami.

"Our Foundation receives hundreds of grant applications each year," said LogistiCare CEO John Shermeyen, who with his wife, Anne, started The Foundation in 2004. "Some applications, though, are just more unique in the programs they offer and the needs that they address.



"Access to healthcare is a national issue, and if LogistiCare can play a role in helping to make care more available in underserved areas like Appalachia, then we will do it. I'm very pleased that The Foundation went above and beyond in considering the St. Mary's application."

Based in the rural community of Clinchco, in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains, the Health Wagon provides quality healthcare to underserved residents in the region.

Twenty-five years ago, Sister Bernie Kenny started what would become today's Health Wagon when she began dispensing medical care from her Volkswagen Beetle.

Today, the Health Wagon, as the name suggests, is a mobile health clinic that visits sites in Southwest Virginia's Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell and Wise counties on a weekly, biweekly and monthly basis providing service five days a week from 8.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. to patients that do not have health insurance.

"We are committed to bringing healthcare to these under-served communities," said Health Wagon Executive Director Teresa Gardner. "Access to healthcare is critical, and I think we have a creative program to help us try to meet that need. We are extremely grateful to The LogistiCare Foundation for their support of our mission."

In addition to the basic healthcare services it provides as part of its regular mission, the Health Wagon and its dedicated staff also plays a huge role in the annual Remote Area Medical (RAM) expedition at the Wise County Fairgrounds. The event brings doctors, nurses and other volunteers from all over the state to provide free medical, dental and eye care to thousands.



"Every year a good number of our LogistiCare employees volunteer at RAM to help any way they can," said Freda Smith, LogistiCare's Virginia general manager. "Even our CEO makes the trip from Florida and works side-by-side with all the other volunteers in support of this worthy cause."

Some of the basic services provided by the Health Wagon include physical assessments, laboratory, immunization programs, screening (pap tests), well-child care and routine care for the acute and chronically ill.

"We were happy to be able to continue our supportive relationship with St. Mary's Health Wagon," said Chanda Forsythe, executive director of The LogistiCare Foundation. "With access to healthcare continuing to be such a big issue, their work is definitely making a difference."

In total, The LogistiCare Foundation approved more than \$180,000 in grant requests for 2007. It is the second year that The Foundation has provided grant funds to the St. Mary's Health Wagon.

For more information about The LogistiCare Foundation or the St. Mary's Health Wagon, please visit their Web sites: www.logisticare.com or www.stmaryshealthwagon.com.

