

This is our third Nonprofit Chamber of Services Nonprofit of the Week. This series has been established with the intent of increasing awareness of the many causes and efforts taken on by our nonprofit brethren. If your nonprofit has a particular event taking place during the course of a week, an anniversary for example, please make this known and we will do all possible to accommodate a spotlight that coincides. On behalf of our membership, we wish to say "thank you" for taking a few moments from your busy schedule to learn a bit more about our community of nonprofits.

This week we are highlighting the Healthy Options for Planeview (HOP) located at 3620 E. Sunnybrook, Suite C. HOP is staffed by Executive Director, Dr. Toni Pickard and Site Manager, Carmen Rodas. These two dynamic individuals are assisted by volunteers provided by the Catholic Charities Foster Grandparent Program. HOP is sponsored in part by the Wichita State University Department of Public Health.

Started in September, 1998, HOP originated by providing clinical services to the residents of the Planeview Neighborhood. Since then the program has expanded to what could best be called a health education training center. Serving a diverse clientele that speak as many as 30 different languages, HOP provides an equally diverse array of services. Services range from mental health counseling, to providing thousands of dollars worth of diapers to needy parents, to providing essential housing repairs to seniors.

Working in collaboration with the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund (also a Nonprofit Chamber member), HOP created a program called 'Healthy Parent/Smart Kids'. The program focuses on family oral health and will soon be enhanced by the receipt of a grant to provide in-house dental services at a negligible rate to participating families.

Another of HOP's projects entitled 'Moms and Mentors' is an evening based educational program designed to teach mothers and mothers-to-be parenting and life skills, such as budgeting, healthy prenatal practices, personal safety, and English.

When asked why they became a member of the Nonprofit Chamber of Services, Dr. Pickard included in her list of reasons the need to enhance program sustainability and improved methods for securing revenues.

You can learn more about HOP by emailing Carmen Rodas at Carmen.rodas@hop-hokc.org or by phoning her at (316) 651.5357.