



Working for Health Care Justice

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition: Working for Health Care Justice



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artin Luther King famously said, “Of all forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.” The Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition is working to eradicate this injustice, and we feel privileged to engage in this work with you.

You witnessed the frightening distortions being repeated in the public sphere in the health care reform debate. As we worked our information table at last summer’s state fair, we were accused of promoting communism, socialism, death panels, rationing and tyranny. Justice isn’t for the faint of heart!

Insurance companies spare no expense to fight reforms, spending \$700,000 per day nationally on lobbying efforts. The recent Supreme Court *Citizens United* decision has opened the door to even more corporate spending to influence politics. With the national reform leaving our fragmented, expensive insurance system intact, the fight is moving to the states and the stakes will be high! **We need resources to enact reform. Justice isn’t cheap.**

Injustice is increasing. Over 100,000 Minnesotans have lost health insurance in the past two years, bringing our state total of uninsured to 480,000. **Insurance company profits soar while people are losing jobs and health coverage and homes.** You may be among those who skip pills or avoid going to the doctor because of cost, get denied coverage due to a previous illness, or see your benefit package shrink and your premiums rise every year. **Justice can’t wait!**

The Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition isn’t waiting. We are bold and determined in our fight for health care justice. MUHCC is helping Minnesotans tell their stories and rebut misinformation. Whether at county fairs, district picnics, house meetings, crowded civic forums, or the Capitol Rotunda, we are cutting through the spin, laying out the facts, and helping people take action in support of single-payer health care.

Your support is paving the path to health care justice!

Amy Lange, RN, MS
Executive Director

Lisa Nilles, MD
Board Chair

Donate to the Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition

Name

Email

Address

City

State/Zip

Phone

You can use my name as an endorser of single-payer and the Minnesota Health Plan

Here is my contribution to MUHCC:

- \$50 \$200
 \$75 \$500
 \$100 \$1,000
 \$150 Other: _____

I wish to make this contribution:

- One-time Quarterly
 Monthly Annually

PAYMENT METHOD

Check enclosed payable to “MUHCC” or “MN Universal Health Care Coalition.”

Credit Card:
 Visa MasterCard Discover

Card Number:

Expiration Date: /

Name on Card:

Signature:

Date:

Mail checks to MUHCC, 2469 University Ave. W., Suite W150, St. Paul, MN 55114

Donations can also be made via credit card or electronic funds transfer at www.muhcc.org/donate

MUHCC is a registered 501(c)4 nonprofit. Contributions support advocacy and lobbying and are not tax deductible.

Please contact us at 651-641-4073 or info@muhcc.org with any questions. Thanks!



Fran Kaliher,
Two Harbors

EDUCATE

Our trainings pack a lot of practical and inspirational knowledge into a fast-paced and fun Saturday. Fran Kaliher drove from Two Harbors to Rochester to attend a training because she was inspired to “work toward fairness and equity in access to health care after realizing how far ahead of us the rest of the ‘advanced,’ industrialized world is, in providing health care for their citizens.”

“The training was great for getting answers about some specifics of the Minnesota Health Plan, hearing responses to questions from ‘devil’s advocates,’ for help in talking to doubters or the uninitiated, and just for being

energized by the roomful of equally activated and caring single payer advocates. Thanks for doing it!” —*Fran Kaliher*

ADVOCATE

With the emphasis on national legislation in 2009, we made sure our voices were heard all the way in Washington, D.C. In March seventeen Minnesotans traveled to Des Moines, Iowa to attend the White House Regional Health Care Forum.

Steve and Joan Janusz went “to let the President know there are people from Minnesota who want single-payer to be part of the health care reform discussion. We went to add our voice with those from other Midwestern states in supporting single-payer, and to learn where the President and staff were with reform. The trip taught us that it is fun and uplifting to be with others working on a cause, there is power with people rallying together, and one has to show up to make a difference.” —*Steve and Joan Janusz*



Joan Janusz, RN, and
Steve Janusz, Northfield

“I have been impressed with the work of the Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition everywhere I have seen them—teaching at community forums, educating at private gatherings, and testifying at the capitol.

Their mission is no less than this: to ensure that each and every Minnesotan has equal access to quality health care. That is something worth fighting for.”

Fr. Michael O’Connell
Pastor, Church of the Ascension
Minneapolis

Cover photos, clockwise from bottom left:

Rep. Bly at Lobby Day; Mad as Hell Nurses at Capitol Rally; volunteers display the Minnesota Health Plan banner at a St. Paul forum; volunteers collecting signatures at the Minnesota State Fair; Sen. John Marty meeting with the “campaign team”; members of the Des Moines caravan; Lisa Nilles, MD, speaking at the Eagan forum.

BY THE NUMBERS

Co-Authors of the Minnesota Health Plan: 74
29 Senators
45 Representatives

Committees Passed: 4
2009: Senate Health Policy and Senate Commerce
2010: Senate Judiciary, House Health Policy

Postcards Delivered to Legislators: 200+
Signatures Delivered to Minnesota’s U.S. Senators: 3,000+

Meetings with Legislators and Congressional Staff: 23
Lobby Days: 4

Executive Director
Amy Lange



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LOBBY

Change happens at the capitol when constituents meet with their legislators to share their personal experiences and ideas. Dr. John Vuchetich met with his legislator to say, “As a physician and psychiatrist I have long been in support of universal healthcare organized under a single payer system.

The nature of healthcare does not lend itself to a market solution. If we have any notion of health care as a right (which I do) then we cannot ration on ability to pay, as we often do now.”

MUHCC’s team of professional lobbyists provide invaluable coaching and assistance to our supporters who visit the capitol. As Dr. Vuchetich attests, the MUHCC lobbyist was “very helpful in giving me some background information on my representative, whom he had known for years. Certainly having people the representative was already familiar with present, made the meeting more relaxed.”

—John Vuchetich, MD



John Vuchetich, MD, and daughter, Minneapolis

ORGANIZE

Champion organizer Ellen “the Nurse” Lafans is persistently positive and passionately persuasive. If Ellen and her team are organizing an event, such as a “Courageous Conversations in Health Care” Forum, people will show up! How does she do it?



Ellen Lafans,
RN, Eagan

“I am able to get people involved by educating and empowering them on how to make a difference. Once people know that they have the power to make a difference it becomes exciting to watch them grow. I am an RN who got involved in community organizing for MUHCC because I believe in my heart and mind that the Minnesota Health Plan is the best solution to our health care mess.” —Ellen Lafans, RN

Community Forums:

500+ attendees. Hosted in Northfield, Rochester, Eagan, Burnsville, White Bear Lake

Advocacy Trainings:

125 participants. Held in Brooklyn Center and Rochester

Tabling: 20 fairs, festivals and

conferences, including all 12 days of the Minnesota State Fair

Phone Banks: 17

Reaching several hundred supporters of the Minnesota Health Plan

Radio and TV: 10 appearances and interviews

Presentations and Panel Discussions: 38

Organizational Endorsers

of the Minnesota Health Plan: 40

Thanks to Our 2009 Donors!

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AFSCME Council #65
American College of Nurse
Midwives—MN Chapter
Citizens Organized Acting
Together (COACT)
League of Women Voters
MN Association of
Professional Employees
Minnesota Independent
Field Staff and Clerical
Association
Minnesota Farmers Union
Minnesota Nurses
Association
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*Dedicated to establishing
 comprehensive single-payer
 health care for all Minnesotans.*

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 our dynamic monthly email
 updates? If not, please go
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 on "Join Us" to update your
 contact information!

Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition Financial Report 2009

Balance Sheet

ASSETS	December 31, 2009
Current Assets	
Total Checking/Savings	41,661.34
Total Current Assets	<u>41,661.34</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	41,661.34
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	1,202.05
Total Liabilities	<u>1,202.05</u>
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	1,284.13
Retained Earnings	52,735.56
Net Income	-13,560.40
Total Equity	<u>40,459.29</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	41,661.34

Income and Expense

INCOME

Contributions and Support	
In-Kind Materials	1,637.58
In-Kind Services	2,690.00
Individual Contributions	65,130.90
Merchandise Contributions	369.00
Organizational Contributions	14,345.08
Training Contributions	2,085.43
Total Contributions and Support	<u>86,257.99</u>
Interest Earned	139.83
TOTAL INCOME	<u>86,397.82</u>

EXPENSES

Communications	9,701.73
Contracting and Salaries	78,593.76
Conventions, Travel, Trainings	1,035.09
Insurance, Fees, Memberships	1,136.12
Office and Supplies	3,990.79
Printing and Postage	5,500.73
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>99,958.22</u>
NET REVENUE	(13,560.40)