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Grace R. Dotson, MS, RN  
Director, Outcomes  
Management  
Greenville Hospital System

## Patient Advocate Program Celebrates One Year Anniversary

Currently, 19.4% of the residents in South Carolina under age 65 are medically uninsured. These individuals are more likely than the insured to have chronic health conditions including hypertension, diabetes, and psychiatric disease requiring long term medication

therapy. Without access to the best healthcare resources, they also suffer poorer outcomes from their chronic conditions.

Welvista is working to help improve their health outcomes by providing essential medications needed to manage chronic disease. In June, 2008 we began partnering with seven of the leading hospitals in South Carolina, placing patient advocates on-site to assist in patient enrollment. Just one year since the program began, we have enrolled a total of 1,800 patients and dispensed more than 5,672 prescription medications at a value of \$1.6 million dollars.

*"The need for this program is great - now more than ever, with rising numbers of uninsured patients due to loss of employment. Healthcare providers and Welvista share common goals for the good of our patients. Together we are making a difference, one person at a time!"*

- Grace Dotson,  
Director of Outcomes Management  
for the Greenville Hospital System

### Welvista thanks our pharmaceutical partners:



► Thanks to partners  
sanofi-aventis and  
Pfizer, we added 26  
new medications  
to our formulary



► How the growing  
population of the  
medically uninsured  
costs us all



► The Wal-Mart  
Foundation makes  
a \$25,000 donation  
to Welvista



► Our hospital  
patient advocate  
program celebrates  
a successful first year

# Welvista®

Formerly Known As CommuniCare

## news

Summer 09



### Rustin Receives National Award

Rudolph B. Rustin, M.D.

Welvista is pleased to announce that our Board Chairman, Dr. Rudolph Rustin, III, was recently awarded the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons Community Impact Award.

The Award recognizes colon and rectal surgeons from around the world for the important volunteer work they perform in their communities. Past recipients of the award include Dr. Gordon Klatt, founder of the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life."

A longtime supporter of Welvista, (which was founded by his late stepfather, Dr. Bart Barone) Dr. Rustin's dedication, leadership and expertise have benefited and shaped the future of our organization.

As he continues using his talents to help those less fortunate, through his work with our organization and countless others, we congratulate him on receiving this prestigious award.

## Helping The Newly Unemployed In Hard Times

**As the recession deepens**, more people than ever before are losing their jobs and the health insurance they have counted on for years. In South Carolina, the unemployment rate has risen to 12.1 percent (its highest rate since record-keeping began in 1976\*). These latest figures give our state the nation's third highest unemployment rate.

Because the newly uninsured do not qualify for Medicaid, they cannot afford to buy insurance, pay hospital or doctor bills, or buy prescription medication. These people fall between the gap in the healthcare system.

### This recent rise in unemployment has created a significant increase in the demand for our services.

Since April of 2008, the number of patients applying to Welvista who are receiving unemployment compensation due to recent job loss has risen significantly. During this same time period, the number of patients who report having no income has also increased.

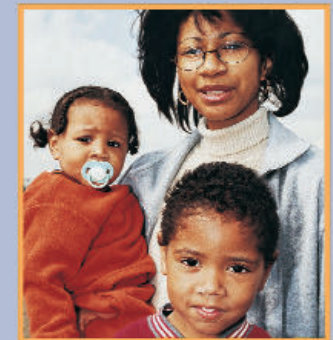
The good news is that Welvista has been able to ensure these newly uninsured patients receive the essential medications they need to live healthier, more productive lives.

Your continued support, along with the partnerships of our 12 pharmaceutical companies who donate name brand medications, enables us to continue our commitment to the individuals and families we serve.

\* South Carolina Employment Security Commission

\*\* Cover the Uninsured South Carolina

\*\*\* healthaffairs.org



**If you lost your job today, would you be able to afford your health insurance?**

### 12.1%

The new jobless rate in South Carolina - third highest in the nation.\*

### 19.4%

The percentage of South Carolinians who are medically uninsured.\*\*

### 52 million

The number of medically uninsured the United States could expect to have by the year 2010, according to a new study.\*\*\*

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## Department Highlights

### PHARMACY

The pharmacy has recently added 26 new medications to its formulary, provided by sanofi-aventis and Pfizer. These medications, along with our entire formulary, can be found online at [welvista.org](http://welvista.org).



Smiles for a Lifetime provided dental care to 3,467 children during the 2008 -2009 school year. Smiles serves children enrolled in Allendale, Dillon Two, and Clarendon I and II school districts. We wish to thank all of our dentists who are committed to helping the children in these districts. Most of our dentists travel from Charleston, Columbia, and Beaufort. They take a day off from their private practice to assist us in providing quality dental care. We salute them for their dedication!

## From the Heart of a Patient

Dear Mr. Trogdon,

*I want to thank you for helping me get my prescriptions through Welvista. This has been a true lifesaver for me.*

*In March I had a heart attack and had to have six stents. Now I am scheduled for open heart surgery in a few weeks.*

*I support myself doing odd jobs. When I went into the hospital in March I did not have the money to pay my hospital bill or buy my medicine. My doctor put me on six different medicines for my heart.*

*Mrs. Martin came to see me in the hospital and signed me up for the Welvista program. She made me feel like the most important person in the world.*

*I don't know how I would have made it through this difficult time without Welvista's help getting my medicine.*

*Please accept my heart-felt thanks,*

*Doug Crane*  
Doug Crane

## The Uninsured: Why This Is Everyone's Problem

*A single mother cannot afford to visit the doctor or buy the medicine she needs to manage her heart disease. She becomes so ill that she ends up in the one place she will not be turned away for lack of money: the hospital emergency room (the most expensive setting for providing medical care). We all pick up the tab, through higher insurance rates and higher taxes.*

While those of us with health insurance enjoy the benefits of medical breakthroughs and the promise of a long, healthy life, those without health insurance (15.6% in our nation and 19.4% in South Carolina\*) struggle to fight illness and chronic disease without the medical care or medications they need.

While we may feel compassion for the uninsured and their untreated medical problems, most of us do not stop to think about how much the problem of the uninsured is costing us every day.

Societal problems occur when parents who cannot afford to treat their own chronic illnesses are unable to take care of their children. When their children are sick and without the medical treatment they need, they have a more difficult time learning, which drags test scores down and forces the state to devote extra resources to their education. Then there are the higher medical costs generated by hospitals who must pay for the uninsured who turn up in their emergency rooms.

These are just a few of the problems created when part of the population does not have access to the medical care most of us take for granted. This year, with the recession and soaring medical costs, the uninsured population has increased significantly.

That is why Welvista is committed to providing essential medications that treat chronic diseases and help people live healthier, more productive lives. Through our network of over 3,000 healthcare providers and our 12 pharmaceutical partners, we provide a single point of access to more than 200 essential medications.

Now more than ever, our model of public private partnership makes sense as an affordable solution to the growing problem of the uninsured. By providing access to medication for the uninsured, Welvista is helping to manage chronic disease, save lives and reduce health costs.

\* Source: [covertheuninsured.org](http://covertheuninsured.org)

## Non-profit Service Providers Doing More With Less



Daniel Lackland, DrPH

For most of the history of the non-profit sector, it was working-class Americans who made the work we do possible. But hardworking people who suddenly lose their jobs find that they are no longer the ones making the charitable gifts – they are the ones who need assistance. In addition, many businesses have scaled back corporate charitable gifts, while others have closed.

As the economy continues its downward spiral, the number of South Carolinians without health insurance grows dramatically. Across the state, which has some of the highest heart disease and stroke rates in the nation, the demand for services for low-income, uninsured people is growing.

In response, non-profits like Welvista are struggling to meet the rising needs, without losing sight of their core mission to help people live healthier, more productive lives. But in these uncharted economic waters, their challenges are without precedent.

Daniel Lackland is an epidemiologist who focuses on disease risks in South Carolina. He reports that the Low Country of South Carolina, which relies heavily on tourism to provide employment for many of the residents, has seen a significant decline in the number of visitors.

## Welvista Continues Out-Of-State Initiatives

Welvista is continuing to expand our reach beyond the borders of South Carolina. In addition to serving the needs of patients in our state, we are currently helping the uninsured in Texas, Delaware, and New Jersey.

With the number of uninsured Americans projected to reach 52 million by 2010, we are more committed than ever to seeking new opportunities to serve more patients across the country.

**We thank all of our partners, our pharmaceutical companies and the businesses and individuals who provide the support that enables us to continue our mission.**



Suzie Foley

"Many businesses and restaurants have closed or been forced to lay people off," he says. "Along with their missing paycheck, many individuals find their healthcare benefits have disappeared, adding yet another worry."

In the Upstate, where Suzie Foley is the Executive Director of the Greenville Free Medical Clinic, she has seen steady increases in the patient volume at their four sites since last summer.

"In the second half of 2008, we experienced a 47% increase in new patients," says Suzie. "With a current caseload of over 4,000 patients, approximately 50 new patients are being seen each week. Unfortunately there does not seem to be an end in sight."

In the last eight years, healthcare premiums have grown four times faster than wages. And in each of these years, one million more Americans have lost their health insurance.

Healthcare reform is coming. But it will take some time to implement. Meanwhile, statewide organizations such as Welvista continue to provide an affordable solution to bridge the gap for the uninsured.

## Department Highlights

### GRANTS UPDATE

Welvista is excited to have received the following grants:  
Banks of America – \$25,000  
BC/BS Foundation of SC – \$100,800  
Central Carolina Community Foundation – \$8,380  
Charleston County Medical Society Auxiliary – \$1,000 (dental)  
Colonial Life – \$10,000  
DL Scurry – \$2,000 (dental)  
The Duke Endowment – \$350,000  
Greenville Women Giving – \$30,000  
Joanna Foundation – \$1,000 (dental)  
Mark Elliott Motley Foundation – \$11,000 (dental)  
Piedmont Health Care – \$10,000  
Roper St. Francis Healthcare – \$50,000  
Winthrop Family Fund – \$5,000 (dental)



On April 28, the Wal-Mart Foundation presented Welvista a check in the amount of \$25,000 to support our medication assistance program to South Carolina's uninsured.

Patty Williams, regional market manager for Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., said, "In these tough economic times, the cost of healthcare and prescription medications is a struggle for many. At Wal-Mart, we wanted to help Welvista continue to provide life-saving medications to residents all across South Carolina."

**To make a donation, please mail your check to:**

**Welvista | 2700 Middleburg Drive | Suite 104 | Columbia, SC 29204**

**Call us toll free at 1.800.763.0059 or visit us online at [welvista.org](http://welvista.org) to learn more.**