

Our Greatest Hits



Photo courtesy of Billy Johnson/Highway 61 Blues Museum

260% Increase in enrollment at the Delta State University School of Nursing since DHA began funding the program to help alleviate the nursing shortage.

640,489 Number of individuals whose health records are stored on the DHA Electronic Health Records system, making it easier for doctors to diagnose and treat illnesses and prescribe medications.

170 Number of health care professionals who use the DHA Electronic Health Records system.

215% Increase in number of patients treated at the Good Samaritan Clinic in Greenville since DHA funding allowed the clinic to expand its hours and enhance its services.

18,150 Number of individuals in the Delta who have received medical or educational services from a DHA program during the 2008–2009 fiscal year.

52% Percentage of pre-school children in Humphreys County who have received free books from the DHA / Dolly Parton Foundation Imagination Library project.

207 Number of mothers in Washington and Leflore Counties who are part of the Maternal Infant Health Outreach Worker program and who have received multiple visits from trained staff to help them with pre-natal and post-natal care.

5 Number of Delta hospitals that have telemedicine capabilities in their emergency rooms connected to UMMC's physician staff, as a result of DHA funding.

Delta Health Alliance

The Delta Health Alliance is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization, headquartered in Stoneville, Mississippi, that aims to improve the health of the 400,000 men, women, and children who call the Mississippi Delta their home.

The presidents of Delta State University, Mississippi State University, and Mississippi Valley State University, the vice chancellor of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, and the Delta Council are joined by four community representatives to form the nine-person board that governs the organization and its staff of 60.

The chief funding for the Delta Health Alliance comes from an appropriation from Congress, though additional grants and funding to expand the Alliance's reach are constantly being sought. Virtually all of the Alliance's work is done in collaboration with local partners, which number 26, and which represent the full spectrum of organizations involved in health care: state and local government agencies, universities and community colleges, hospitals, clinics, schools, grassroots organizations, and faith-based groups.



DELTA HEALTH ALLIANCE

Solutions for a Healthy Tomorrow

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Changing the world of healthcare
in the Mississippi Delta

www.deltahealthalliance.org



Better Access

Providing better access to quality healthcare starts with successful partnerships between Delta Health Alliance and local providers throughout the Delta. Take the Good Samaritan Center. The Delta Health Alliance joined with this primary care facility for the uninsured, which had opened its doors in 2006, to provide additional staffing and technical support. As a result, the clinic's scope of services and hours has expanded and the number of patients has tripled. For a minimal fee based on income, patients receive the treatment

in patient care."This new effort, a partnership between pharmacists and patients, promotes the safe and effective use of medications and helps patients achieve targeted outcomes at the lowest costs possible. Doctors send patients' medical information to pharmacists who, by having access to these records, may better prevent dangerous drug interactions. Also, since patients consider a pharmacy as a source of health education, this program allows pharmacists to work more closely with a patient because he is fully informed of a patient's complete medical history.

"Those folks helped change my life. I felt if they could help me, I needed to do something to help myself. Everybody gives something. That's what this is all about."



Emily Newman, a 56-year-old retired teacher who is fulfilling her high school dream of becoming a nurse



"As pharmacists, we want to get out from behind the counter and become more involved in patient care."

- Tommy Spell



That's Leon Hughes, a Greenville man who went back to work for the first time in three years after the Good Samaritan Center was able to bring his severe hypertension under control. In return, Hughes pledged to the center's staff to lose weight. He's down 50 pounds and working fulltime.

The Good Samaritan Center ("those folks") is just one of the 35 programs sponsored by the Delta Health Alliance, a four-year-old organization that is changing health care in the Mississippi Delta.

How are we doing this?

- By providing better access to health care and wellness programs.
- By increasing awareness of how to enjoy healthier lifestyles.
- By applying the latest science and medical research to our programs.
- By engaging community partners in our mission.
- By measuring the results to evaluate the effectiveness of our programs.

and medication they need for chronic disease as well as preventative care.

Another example is Delta State University's School of Nursing. Overcoming the persistent shortage of nurses in the Delta is the goal of this project. Delta Health Alliance funding prepares students before they enroll and helps to recruit and retain students by offering scholarships and loans. Since this program began three years ago, Delta State's nursing enrollment has tripled and the graduation rate has increased from 50 to 80 percent.

Increasing Awareness

The Mississippi Delta ranks among the nation's highest in diabetes, obesity, heart disease, infant mortality, stroke, and lung disease. To turn these numbers around, the Delta Health Alliance funds local organizations to increase awareness of health issues and educate individuals on living healthy lifestyles.

Consider the program funded at the University of Mississippi's School of Pharmacy. When it comes to prescription drugs, patients always ask the same two questions: "Am I getting the right medicine?" and "Can I afford the medicine I need?" This new program is working to make sure the answer to both questions is always "yes."

Tommy Spell, coordinator of community development at the School of Pharmacy explains: "As pharmacists, we want to get out from behind the counter and become more involved

Cutting Edge Technology

There's no black doctor's bag any more: only a tablet-sized personal computer. No hard-to-read handwritten prescriptions: just a mouse-click transmission to any pharmacy anywhere in the country. No charts or bulky paper records: simply a series of commands that keeps every aspect of a patient's care in a virtual world.

Welcome to a new age of medicine. It's called Electronic Health Records, and this innovation is quickly taking hold in the Delta thanks to funding and technical support from the Delta Health Alliance. Just ask Dr. Kenneth Hahn, a Greenville cardiologist: "We could not function now without electronic records.

It means improved efficiency. Increased patient safety. Better doctor-patient communication. More accurate and complete medical records." It all translates into an even higher level of care for Delta residents.

With PC in hand, Hahn can process every aspect of a patient visit from time of arrival to time of discharge; he can review a patient's history, trend vitals such as weight and see lab results; he can better manage medications for improved health and patient safety and help patients save money with generic drugs; he can send prescriptions to local pharmacies or mail-order pharmacies with a click of his mouse. Hahn estimates his productivity has increased tenfold, allowing him to see two to three more patients in a clinic session.