RAMSEY COUNTY 1 S TO 1 Y A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society

Who Built the
Minnesota Capitol?
John Rachač,
Master Carpernter

John Sielaff
—Page 13

Summer 2012

Volume 47, Number 1

St. Paul's Beaux-Arts Carnegie Libraries
Philanthropic Architecture in a Local Context

Lauren M. Freese Page 3



St. Anthony Park Free Public Library, 1917



Riverview Free Public Library, 1917

Three public libraries in St. Paul; three façades; one gift of money from the Carnegie Foundation to build all three; one architect for all three buildings; and one approved set of architectural plans. What do these façades tell us? The top and bottom photos are from 2010. The middle photo is from 1994. Photos courtesy of the Saint Paul Public Library.

Arlington Hills Free Public Library, 1917

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY

Executive Director John M. Lindley

Founding Editor (1964–2006) Virginia Brainard Kunz

Editor

John M. Lindley

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul A. Verret President

Cheryl Dickson

First Vice President

William Frels

Second Vice President

Julie Brady

Secretary

Carolyn J. Brusseau

Treasurer

Thomas H. Boyd

Immediate Past President

Anne Cowie, Nancy Randall Dana, Joanne A. Englund, Howard Guthmann, Richard B. Heydinger, Jr., John Holman, Kenneth H. Johnson, Elizabeth M. Kiernat, David Kristal, Carl Kuhrmeyer, Father Kevin M. McDonough, Nancy W. McKillips, Susan McNeely,

Laurie M. Murphy, Robert Muschewske, Richard H. Nicholson, Jay Pfaender, Jeffrey Slack, Ralph Thrane.

Directors Emeritus

W. Andrew Boss

EDITORIAL BOARD

Anne Cowie, *chair*, James B. Bell, Thomas H. Boyd, John Diers, John Milton, Debra Mitts-Smith, Laurie M. Murphy, Paul D. Nelson, Richard H. Nicholson, Jay Pfaender, David Riehle, Steve Trimble, Paul A. Verret, Mary Lethert Wingerd.

HONORARY ADVISORY BOARD

William Fallon, William Finney, George Latimer, Joseph S. Micallef, Marvin J. Pertzik, James Reagan, Rosalie E. Wahl.

RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Rafael Ortega, chair Commissioner Tony Bennett Commissioner Toni Carter Commissioner Jim McDonough Commissioner Jan Parker Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt Commissioner Janice Rettman

Julie Kleinschmidt, manager, Ramsey County

Ramsey County History is published quarterly by the Ramsey County Historical Society, 323 Landmark Center, 75 W. Fifth Street, St. Paul, MN 55102 (651-222-0701). Printed in U.S.A. Copyright © 2012, Ramsey County Historical Society. ISSN Number 0485-9758. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission from the publisher. The Society assumes no responsibility for statements made by contributors. Fax 651-223-8539; e-mail address: admin@rchs.com; web site address: www.rchs.com

H1Story

Volume 47, Number 1

Spring 2012

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON DECEMBER 20, 2007:

The Ramsey County Historical Society inspires current and future generations to learn from and value their history by engaging in a diverse program of presenting, publishing and preserving.

CONTENTS

- 3 St. Paul's Beaux-Arts Carnegie Libraries:
 Philanthropic Architecture in a Local Context
 Lauren M. Freese
- 13 Who Built the Minnesota Capitol?
 John Rachač, Master Carpenter
 John Sielaff
- 19 Community Health with a Heart:
 The History of Open Cities Health Center
 Katie Jaeger
- 26 "As If in a Law Office in Illinois"
 An Interview with President Lincoln
 General John B. Sanborn

Publication of Ramsey County History is supported in part by a gift from Clara M. Claussen and Frieda H. Claussen in memory of Henry H. Cowie Jr. and by a contribution from the late Reuel D. Harmon

A Message from the Editorial Board

The thread running through the Spring issue of our magazine is buildings and builders. In the lead article, art historian Lauren Freese examines the facades of three Beaux-Arts style Carnegie Libraries in St. Paul. What makes her analysis so interesting is that all three public libraries were built by the same construction company using similar budgets and nearly identical architectural plans prepared by one architect. Yet the facades are not identical. Freese analyzes the neighborhood setting for each library to explain why. From libraries, the focus then turns to the construction of two other St. Paul landmarks: James J. Hill's mansion on Summit Avenue and the Minnesota Capitol. John Sielaff uses little-known records to tell us about one master carpenter, John Rachač, and how he used his skills in finishing the interior of the Hill family's residence and to build the seat of Minnesota's government.

This issue then turns to Kate Jaeger's history of a more recent building effort: the establishment of the Open Cities Health Center (OCHC), which is now in its 45th year. Since its founding, OCHC's mission has been to provide health care to economically disadvantaged residents of St. Paul, especially among people of color, recent immigrants, and those who lack health insurance. This is a remarkable story because it began as a grass-roots effort led by women from the neighborhood OCHC serves. Our final article is a short and poignant account of General John B. Sanborn's brief interview with President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. This excerpt comes from Sanborn's privately printed *Speeches and Addresses*, which the Society has reprinted and will publish this summer.

Anne Cowie, Chair, Editorial Board

Community Health with a Heart: The History of Open Cities Health Center

Katie Jaeger

multigenerational immigrant family who had recently arrived in St. Paul came to see Open Cities Health Center's optometrist Dr. Matt Bauer. None of the family members had ever had an eye exam. The sixteen-year-old daughter had been diagnosed with a severe learning disability. She was withdrawn, quiet, and having difficulty in school. Her father was convinced she did not have a learning disability and asked Dr. Bauer to help. Dr. Bauer did an eye exam and found the girl's vision to be 20/200; she had basically been going through life seeing one big blur. When Dr. Bauer explained that the girl did not have a learning disability and what she needed was corrective lenses, her father began to cry as he was so happy to learn his daughter had received help. Dr. Bauer subsequently worked with the girl to help her learn to use her new eyeglasses and to ensure she was able to read properly. The girl is now seventeen and is a happy, outgoing, high school sophomore, who is achieving good grades and hoping to get her driver's license.

When asked about this case of a gift of sight, Dorii Gbolo, the clinic's CEO stated, "As a community clinic, Open Cities Health Center sees every patient who walks through the door, regardless of their ability to pay. They are patients like you and me; they have families, they are grandparents, single mothers, and small children. They may be a laid-off architect or engineer or a single mother or a homeless veteran. One thing they share in common-they need a place where they are accepted and where all their health care needs are met."

It All Began in 1967

The year before Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated was the worst summer for racial disturbance in United States history. Thurgood Marshall had just become the first African American Supreme Court Justice. Activism in the country was at a peak including in the Minnesota African American community. There was a tremendous amount of community involvement in civil rights, equal opportunity, and creating an environment where everyone had equal ac-

cess to everything from education to jobs to health care.1

It was 1967 and a group of St. Paul residents opened one of Minnesota's first medical clinics dedicated to helping populations of color. Through funding from the City of St. Paul and Ramsey Action Programs, the clinic was started in the basement of St. James Church, The location was in the heart of St. Paul's old Rondo neighborhood (now part of the Summit-University neighborhood), an area where the majority of residents were African American. When it opened, volunteers operated the clinic and services were provided by a core of volunteer physicians, dentists, and nurses. Services included immunizations and health education. Its mission was to provide health care to economically disadvantaged residents.

The health clinic continued to attract a growing client base and needed to expand. In 1969 the City of St. Paul had received funding under the Model Cities Program, a federal plan that provided financial assistance to distressed neighborhoods. The Summit-University neighborhood in St. Paul was one of



Mary L. Stokes Clark is credited with being one of the founders of the Model Cities Health Center in St. Paul. The Model Cities Center was a predecessor of today's Open Cities Health Clinic. Trained as a public health nurse, Mary Stokes served as the Center's first director from 1969 to 1971. Photo courtesy of Open Cities Health Clinic.

those areas. The clinic received part of the Model Cities funding and was first named "Model Cities Health Project" and then for many years it was the Model Cities Health Center. Today's Open Cities Health Center (OCHC) is the successor to this clinic of the late 1960s.

Women Are the First Directors

Not only was the concept of the clinic unique, but Model Cities Health Center's original founders were also pioneers in the field. With the women's movement still a few years away, the health center's first leaders were not only African American, they were women.



In 1972 the Model Cities Health Center moved to the Hallie Q. Brown-Martin Luther King Center. In that location, the Health Center had larger facilitates to accommodate its growing staff, as this undated photo shows, and was able to offer a wider range of services to its clients. Photo courtesy of Open Cities Health Clinic.

Mary Stokes was named the clinic's first project coordinator in 1969. A public health nurse, she had relocated to St. Paul from Harlem in 1947 and formerly worked for the St. Paul Bureau of Public Health. Stokes was a community activist in the Summit-University neighborhood, working for improvement of community health. She kept in regular contact with the media and local elected officials to ensure that health care was available for residents. She strongly believed that health care was only one part of helping society and thus developed a strong network of agencies that OCHC used to refer patients to including Catholic Charities, St. Paul-Ramsey Hospital (now Regions Hospital), and other social service agencies.2

Mrs. Timothy O. Vann became the project director at the clinic in 1971. A graduate of Langston University, a historically black college located in Langston, Oklahoma, and the University of Minnesota, she was previously employed by the St. Paul Public Works Department and for many years she worked for the city's Housing and Redevelopment Authority. A highly regarded community activist, Vann supported her ten children by herself when she was widowed in her

early thirties. Under Vann's leadership, the small community clinic expanded services to offer outpatient medical care and added many programs and services including social services, a pharmacy, a dental facility, and an eye clinic. Mrs. Vann's son, Anthony Vann, continues his mother's legacy by currently serving as the chair of the clinic's board of directors.

Expansion of a Community Health Center

In 1972, Model Cities Health Center became part of the St. Paul Division of Public Health and moved to larger facilities at the Hallie Q. Brown-Martin Luther King Center. Model Cities was able to expand at the new location in 1975 to offer outpatient medical care including physical exams, minor emergency care, maternal and infant care, a well-baby clinic, podiatry, ophthalmology, hearing screens, and health education. A Hmong clinic was also established. Federal demonstration funding was phased out in 1975 and Model Cities was able to remain open with funding from the City of St. Paul's Community Development Block Grants program.

Federal Urban Health Initiatives fund-

ing was granted in 1979 and Model Cities was established as a federally qualified community health center (FQHC). Community health centers are nonprofit clinics located in medically underserved areas that share a mission of making comprehensive primary care accessible to anyone regardless of ability to pay. Federal legislation requires every FQHC to have a governing board that represents its community; a majority of the board members must be patients who use the clinic's services.³

A Private, Nonprofit Corporation

In 1981, Model Cities' advisory committee filed for and received federal tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status as a nonprofit organization. Mrs. Vann retired in 1983 and Dr. Beverley Oliver Hawkins became the new executive director. Dr. Hawkins later became CEO of Model Cities in 1991.

In 1985, Model Cities Health Center separated from the St. Paul Division of



Named "Timothy" from birth, Mrs. Timothy O. Vann succeeded Mary Stokes as the director of the Model Cities Health Center in 1971. Mrs. Vann's unusual first name for a woman may have contributed to her friends and associates affectionately addressing her as "Ma'am." Mrs. Vann was a philanthropist and volunteer who was well known for her service to the community. She served as director of the Health Center until 1983, a period of growth for the Center. Mrs. Vann died in St. Paul in 2001. Photo courtesy of Open Cities Health Clinic.

Public Health. Dr. Beverley O. Hawkins oversaw the agency's transfer from being a satellite clinic of the St. Paul Division of Public Health to a private nonprofit corporation. She directed the development and implementation of the clinic's strategic plans and expansion of the agency's service delivery system. Under Dr. Hawkins' leadership the clinic took a giant step forward in 1986 when it moved into a newly constructed facility at the northeast corner of Fuller Avenue and Dale Street.

Throughout the 1990s Model Cities became multi-lingual and had various specialties including podiatry, ophthalmology, dermatology, pediatrics, and mental health. Programs (in English and Hmong) included diabetes clinics, Lamaze classes, smoking cessation clinics, and weight loss programs. The family dental clinic also expanded. Since 2000, the clinic has gone through several major transitions, including expanding its service area in 2001 when it moved to a new location at 409 N. Dunlap Street; joining in 2002 with North End Health Center to serve more families:

and the clinic's name was changed from Model Cities Health Center to Open Cities Health Center in 2003.

Current Clinic Built

In 2001, Model Cities Health Center expanded its capacity by moving to the current clinic location at 409 North Dunlap Street in St. Paul's Midway district. The clinic had previously leased a 10,000-square-foot facility at 430 North Dale Street. As demand for the clinic's services grew, the space became too small and Model Cities bought the building next to the Central Medical Building, doubling its space to over 26,000 square feet.

The clinic was able to increase efficiency by adding exam rooms and decrease patient wait times. The expanded services at the new location allowed the clinic to serve 30 percent more patients. In addition, the building was adjacent to the Central Medical Building; consequently those clients who needed to see specialists not available at the clinic could simply walk to their other appointments.

North End Health Center

In September 2001 OCHC entered into an agreement to purchase substantially all of the assets of North End Health Center, which is located at 135 Manitoba Avenue at the corner with Rice Street. By 2002, North End Health Center had merged with Model Cities to greatly increase its service area and expand its services to the community.

The history of the North End Health Center was very similar to the beginnings of Model Cities Health Center. Both clinics started from the tireless efforts of community activists and organizers and both health centers were embedded in the community they serve.

In the early 1970s, church and community leaders recognized that St. Paul's North End was lacking in basic health services for poor people. A communityneeds study revealed the growing incidence of venereal disease, increasing numbers of teen pregnancies, and high levels of drug and alcohol abuse. The North End Health Clinic was founded in



The three leaders (left to right) of the Model Cities Health Center-Connie Steward, who was then the president of the Health Center's board of directors, Dr. Beverley O. Hawkins, who was Mrs. Vann's successor as director, and Mrs. Timothy O. Vann-posed with ceremonial shovels at the groundbreaking for the Center's new facility at 403 Dale Street. The Center relocated to this building in 1986. Photo courtesy of Open Cities Health Clinic.

1973 by many North End residents including Sr. Jeanne Therese Condon, an outreach worker from St. Leo's Roman Catholic Church; Steve Earl of North End Community Organization; and Fr. Vernon Miller, pastor of St. Bernard's Church. Their vision was to offer low-cost health care to the poor in a storefront location at 1144 Marion Street in St. Paul, where patients could receive clinic services on a sliding fee scale depending upon their income. North End Clinic, as it was often called, continued throughout the 1970s to provide low-cost health care to the underserved like the working poor and the unemployed who have little to no insurance.

North End Clinic moved into the Multi Service Center adjacent to Washington Junior High School at 1021 Marion Street in St. Paul in 1978. With community clinic funding from Ramsey County and the City of St. Paul, the clinic's hours ranged from 20-30 hours a week. In the 1980s, North End Clinic hosted the Minnesota "How's Your Health?" Fair at the clinic to promote personal health maintenance and increase public awareness of potential health problems with early detection and diagnosis of disease. The community also received free health screenings and offered health tests for a cost of \$6.00, which contributed to the 3,719 patient visits during that time.

In 1985 Nancy Briggs was hired as the Executive Director of the North End Clinic and led the organization into its current site at 135 Manitoba Avenue and Rice Street in St. Paul. Once known as the Weyandt Building, it is now called the Blue Bird Building. The Clinic's 6,450 square feet of space provided for nine exam rooms, one minor surgery room, a counseling office, an x-ray room, and a much larger lab to continue to serve those in need of quality health care.

The North End Clinic celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1998 with its parade unit in the Rice Street Festival, which the clinic has been participating in for over twenty years. In 2001, North End Clinic and Open Cities Health Center (formerly Model Cities) joined together to expand services to continue to serve patients from all over the Twin Cities on a sliding fee scale in addition to accepting all insurances.



Founded in 1973, the North End Health Clinic predominantly served St. Paul's North End neighborhood. In 2001Open Cities Health Clinic purchased the assets of the North End Health Center, which included this building located at 135 Manitoba Avenue and Rice Street. Photo courtesy of Open Cities Health Clinic.

Name Change to Reflect Mission

After North End Health Center merged with Model Cities Health Center in 2002. the clinic's patient base continued to grow and the clinic served patients from all over the seven-county metropolitan area of the Twin Cities. In 2003 the board of the newly merged health centers changed its name from Model Cities Health Center to Open Cities Health Center to better reflect the two long-time community clinics: Model Cities Health Center and North End Health Center. The new name created a universal image which made both clinics more recognizable to the communities they serve and helped better promote the clinic's mission to serve people of all ethnicities, races, and economic statuses.

Dorii Gbolo Is Named CEO

In 2006, Dorii Gbolo, who lives in the Summit-University area, was named chief executive officer for Open Cities Health Center. She is one of only a few African

American women who are CEOs of health care agencies. Gbolo comes from a long family tradition of African American women who have set trends and made a difference in health care. Her grandmother was the first black nurse in their hometown of Danville, Illinois, in the 1940s. Twenty years later, Gbolo's mother was the first African American student admitted to the nursing school at the local Danville hospital. As Gbolo put it,

Serving the African American community continues to be important to women in my family. From the time I was a child, I understood that having an education and working toward the betterment of the community was vital and was part of my heritage.

A graduate of the nursing program at St. Catherine's University, Gbolo was initially hired as a nurse manager at OCHC. She later earned a master's degree in nursing leadership/transcultural nursing from Augsburg College. Gbolo brings a wealth of experience to her demanding role as OCHC's CEO. During

her twenty-plus years in health care, Gbolo has developed strong programs in diabetic outreach and education with emphasis on self-management, outreach and education for pregnant women, and mental health partnerships with community agencies that center on substance abuse and depression. Community health care is a top priority for Gbolo. As CEO at OCHC, she continued to concentrate on ensuring access to health care for all individuals and families and eliminating health disparities in populations of color.

In an interview with KARE-11 television station in 2008, Gbolo explained that when she began working at Open Cities, she noticed that OCHC was primarily a family practice clinic with a preference for referring patients to other health care providers for more specialized care. When the federal government began in 1998 to step up its efforts to encourage the establishment of Health Disparities Collaboratives that would give greater emphasis to treating patients with diabetes, cardiovascular disease, depression, and other chronic health problems in community clinics, Gbolo advocated OCHC providing more care than it previously had. In her words,

. . . [Y]ou can't just treat one body part. You have to treat the whole human being, and have all those services in one facility. If you're diabetic or depressed, for example, it messes with your teeth. So this [wider range of medical care and services] is convenient for our patients.4

40 Years of Healing and Outreach

In 2007, Open Cities Health Center celebrated forty years of providing health care to those in need. A large celebration was held to honor the early leaders of the clinic, the dedicated staff and board members, the generous funders, and most importantly, the patients. Since the dawn of the twenty-first century, OCHC had seen its patient base grow from 7,400 patients in 2000 to over 16,000 in 2006. The celebration events included a keynote address from U.S. Congresswoman Betty McCollum who said that "Open Cities is an example of



Dorii Gbolo served as the chief executive officer of Open Cities Health Clinic from 2006 to 2012. Photo courtesy of Open Cities Health Clinic.

what it means to bring health care right to the community. The work they do is remarkable."

2008 Expansion and **Honoring Past Leaders**

In 2008, the clinic renovated 3,700 square feet of unused garage space and transformed it into a multipurpose service center, called the Mrs. Timothy O. Vann Multipurpose Service Center and Bill Skally Meeting Room. The new section of the Open Cities Dunlap clinic is used for classes, programs, support groups, counseling, and other activities. A section of the service center is available for community use and another part houses a Ramsey County WIC (Women-Infants-Children) clinic. The project was funded entirely through grants.

Bill Skally was the owner of Skally's Tax Service on the corner of Grand Avenue and Dale Street in St. Paul. He was actively involved in the Summit-University and Thomas-Dale neighborhoods. Skally supported many causes and was particularly dedicated to Open Cities Health Center because he felt

it was important that everyone in the community receive health care and be treated with respect and dignity. He supported OCHC for over two decades by volunteering his time and contributing financially to the clinic. Skally served on Open Cities Health Center's Board of Directors for fourteen years, six as its chair. A man who believed in justice and equality, he created a legacy of what it means to make the world a better place.

This multipurpose service center project was a community effort from the beginning. It was also a focal point of OCHC's long-range strategic plan to ensure that the clinic will have the capacity to provide education, outreach, and social services for many years and, hopefully, many generations. The idea was to increase access to care to individuals and families who need affordable health care. especially populations of color. The goal was to create a long-lasting multipurpose service center for OCHC patients, clients, and community members that will promote healthy lifestyles, increase access to care, and help reduce health disparities in populations of color.

New North End Clinic

In 2009, Open Cities CEO Dorii Gbolo envisioned a new facility for Open Cities Health Center's North End Clinic. This expanded 17,000-square-foot clinic would have fifteen exam rooms, one minor surgery room, six dental chairs, three counseling rooms, an x-ray room, a 340B Discounted Pharmacy, an updated lab, expanded community outreach offices and a community room.⁵ This new location would increase patient services by 2,000 visits a year more than the current 15,417 visits.

The future home of the Open Cities North End Clinic site has seen many changes over the years, both in its tenants and in the community the site serves. In the past, its location at the corner of 916 and 918 Rice Street in St. Paul has been a bustling grocery run by the Aurelius Brothers, the John Hedman dry goods store, a shoe store, and a furniture store.

The demographics of the area have changed from Americans of European descent with very few residents of African or Asian descent to a very multicultural community today. This location is ideal for the new clinic site as it will connect a historic cornerstone location with the heritage of an active community health center.

Because of OCHC's initiative, this bustling cornerstone of the North End area is slowly being revitalized into a much needed essential resource for the North End Community; a community health care center that offers quality affordable health care that is crucial to the educational success and labor market of our community. In order to achieve this vision the Open Cities North End Clinic needs to successfully raise \$800,000 to finish the newly renovated building at the 916 Rice Street site. Once completed, the new clinic will allow Open Cities North End Clinic to continue the legacy of providing quality affordable health care to those in need.

Community Health with a Heart

Today, Open Cities Health Center is one of the largest nonprofit community health centers in the Twin Cities. The mission of Open Cities Health Center is to provide culturally competent primary and preventive health care and related



William Francis "Bill" Skally was the owner of a local professional service company located at the corner of Grand Avenue and Dale Street who was a dedicated volunteer and supporter of the Open Cities Health Clinic. Throughout his life, Skally sought to change his community for the better. Following his death in August 2007, artist Marla Gamble honored Bill and his service to OCHC as board member, board chair, and benefactor by creating this artwork titled "Bill Skally Celebrates with Aurora Borealis." Photo courtesy of Open Cities Health Clinic.

services to all people throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The goal is to improve the health and well being of high risk and vulnerable populations through the provision of affordable medical and dental care and related services. Over 16,000 clients are seen at the clinic each year, which translates into over 64,000 patient visits. The multicultural clinic has a broad client base made up of African-American, Caucasian, Southeast Asian, and East African patients. OCHC provides translators and offers many programs in both English and Hmong.

Currently the ethnic composition of OCHC's clients is approximately:

African American	44%
Asian	20%
Caucasian	19%
Unknown / Other	12%
Latino	4%
American Indian	1%

Open Cities currently provides care on a bilingual, multicultural basis and has staff members from varied cultural backgrounds. Many staff members have long tenure with the clinic and have developed strong relationships with their patients. Drs. Fred Lewis and Charles Crutchfield are two African American physicians who have been with OCHC for many years, serving generations of families. They model the spirit of Open Cities as both were pioneers, becoming physicians at a time when few people of color were going to medical school.

OCHC is well known and regarded for providing culturally sensitive and appropriate health care. Because many members of the staff represent a variety of ethnic backgrounds, these medical and health service providers reflect OCHC's patient base. In addition, many of the staff members typically live in the communities surrounding the clinic sites.

Open Cities Health Center offers comprehensive health care to all individuals and families. Medical services include pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, family planning, adult care, geriatrics and internal medicine with specialists in dermatology, ophthalmology, and podiatry. The family dentistry services include exams, x-rays, cleaning, dentures, partials and crowns, dental education. and emergency walk-ins. The mental health department offers psychological and psychiatric evaluations, medicine management, case management, outreach, psychotherapy groups and support groups. Free HIV testing is also available. OCHC is open to everyone, including individuals and families without insurance. A sliding fee scale is also available.

OCHC also offers outreach and education through its Community Health Connection (CHC) program to address major health care issues particularly cancer, depression, diabetes, heart disease and infant mortality. The clinic recognizes that healthy residents make healthy communities and therefore there is a need to guarantee that residents have quality health care and preventive health care. The CHC program uses social workers, nurses, health educators, community health workers and other staff to provide outreach and education that empowers people to take charge of their health. Due to the health disparities in these populations, the program concentrates on OCHC's target populations (African Americans, Southeast Asians,



Two physicians who have been a part of the medical staff at Open Cities Health Clinic for many years are Dr. Charles Crutchfield, left, and Dr. Fred Lewis. Locally Drs. Crutchfield and Lewis are considered to be pioneers because they became physicians at a time when few people of color were able to attend medical school. Photo courtesy of Open Cities Health Clinic.

and recent immigrants and refugees). OCHC also participates in many community events throughout the year to promote health including hosting an annual African American Health Fair and a Back to School event. The clinic also participates in Rondo Days and offers outreach at many other community locations.

The service area of OCHC's two sites in St. Paul has grown due to the expansion of the clinic at sites that are located on main bus routes and near major freeways. The clinic's service area now covers four counties (Ramsey, Hennepin, Washington, and Dakota) with the majority of patients coming from St. Paul, Minneapolis, and St. Paul's northern suburbs. While OCHC continues to grow and provide much needed services, it remains true to the stewardship of Mary Stokes and Mrs. Vann, dedicated community activists and humanitarians, and to its roots as the clinic that started in the basement of a church with volunteer help-offering health care to all those in need.

Katie Jaeger is the Executive Assistant at Open Cities Health Center. A resident of St. Paul, she thanks Dorii Gbolo and Sue Rohland for their help with this article.

Endnotes

- 1. For a brief account of the impact of the racial unrest and the civil rights movement that were occurring in other parts of the United States on the Summit-University neighborhood of St. Paul, see John M. Lindley, A Powerful Catalyst for United Action: The History of the Saint Paul Area Council of Churches, 1906-2006 (St. Paul: St. Paul Area Council of Churches and Ramsey County Historical Society, 2007),
- 2. "Open Cities Health Center Celebrates 40 Years of Service," Insight News, November 15, 2007, http://insightnews
- 3. Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers, What is a Community Health Center? http://www.mnachc.org. A federally qualified health center is defined in section 1905(1)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act.
- 4. "Dorii Gbolo-Health Care Heroes 2008," http://www.kare11.com/news (June 24, 2008).
- 5. The 340B Drug Pricing Program was established in 1992 under Section 340B of the Public Health Service Act (1944 as amended) and is administered by the U.S. Health and Human Services Administration.



Published by the Ramsey County Historical Society 323 Landmark Center 75 West Fifth Street Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage
PAID

PAID Twin Cities, MN Permit #3989



The CSPS Hall in St. Paul displays this photo of John Rachač, a master carpenter who helped to build the Summit Avenue mansion of James J. Hill and the Minnesota Capitol. For more on John Rachač, see page 13. Photo by Julia Kierstine. Photo courtesy of the Czech-Slovak Protective Society, St. Paul.