The AmeriHealth Caritas Partnership is dedicated to promoting and advancing health equity by conducting health promotion and prevention programs that address the prevalence of diseases in vulnerable and underserved populations.

Founded in 2011 by AmeriHealth Caritas as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Partnership is enhancing the quality of life in disadvantaged communities across the nation.
Dear Friends:

On behalf of AmeriHealth Caritas Partnership, I am proud to share our 2013 Annual Report. It celebrates many milestones, including our name change. As “partners” with a mission to advance health equity, we have created a unique collaboration. This diverse public-private partnership has resulted in great success.

This year we expanded our geographic outreach and conducted a record number of signature events. We hosted prominent dental and medical thought leaders and professionals to share integrated best practices for reducing health disparities. Several national supporters joined us to bring our Health Ministry education and screening to audiences with chronic illnesses and multigenerational health challenges.

Together, we have brought hope and healing to thousands of underserved families. You’ll see the power of this transformation within the pages of this report.

I am extremely grateful to all of our community partners for their support as we move to empower more American communities. We’re making great strides in a most important journey.

With gratitude,

Maria Pajil Battle
President, AmeriHealth Caritas Partnership

“If we can save one child, or help one family live healthier, we can help communities achieve a better quality of life.”

Maria Pajil Battle
President, AmeriHealth Caritas Partnership

Community empowerment
Asthma is the most serious condition facing children today. Flare-ups and complications can be preventable. The costs are especially high for minority children living in vulnerable communities: countless trips to the emergency room and inpatient stays, a poorer quality of life — even death. There is no cure for asthma, but Healthy Hoops® teaches families how to win against the disease.

The year 2013 marked the 11th anniversary of our Healthy Hoops® program. AmeriHealth Caritas Partnership brought its A-game of basketball, education, respiratory screening and family fun to communities across Pennsylvania and Kentucky.

The goal? To help children with poorly controlled asthma, and their families, manage their disease day-to-day. That includes learning how to exercise safely, avoiding triggers, and taking medicine just as directed.

To date, thousands of children and families have benefitted from this award-winning program and its related training for coaches and school nurses. It’s a lifelong, lifesaving learning experience.

“With my one daughter, I thought because her asthma seemed to be fine, she didn’t need medicine every day. That was a major thing for me... [to learn] that even if she seems fine, I still need to give her the medicine every day.”

Elois, mom

Game on! Winning the fight against childhood asthma and obesity

992 children participated in Healthy Hoops events in Kentucky and Pennsylvania.

Educate and motivate
In 2013, we brought hope and healing to the town of Henryville, Indiana. After a 2012 tornado leveled the elementary school and left more than 2,000 people without homes, the Partnership, along with MDwise Hoosier Alliance, constructed a state-of-the-art playground.

The AmeriHealth Caritas Safe Playground Build program helps revitalize challenged communities. In one day, teams of volunteers construct the entire framework, cut the ribbon and prepare for whooping youngsters to descend upon their handiwork. It’s all about promoting safe play spaces and healthy exercise. Rebuilding dreams. Bringing kids and communities together.

Each playground is built in tandem with volunteer engineers and corporate partners. Other special sites included:

- **Absecon, New Jersey “Field of Dreams”** — A playground for children with physical and intellectual disabilities, built in collaboration with PerformCare and South Jersey Field of Dreams Foundation and Park.

- **Philadelphia** — A safe place to play for children living in a domestic abuse shelter, built in collaboration with Keystone First health plan.

7 playgrounds were constructed by the Partnership in 2013, in Indiana, Philadelphia, Baton Rouge, North Charleston, South Carolina and New Jersey.

350 children are served per playground.

“These are the kids that don’t get invited to sleepover parties. They needed a place where they can go to play with their buddies. The playground — where kids with disabilities are safe — is a dream come true.”

Barry Hackett, co-founder and chairman of the Field of Dreams Park, and grandfather of Jacob, pictured at left.
Health Ministry on tour!

When AmeriHealth Caritas Partnership brought its 21-Day Journey to Wellness series to Matthews Memorial Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., Deacon James A. Otey Sr. had an epiphany.

“I realized I needed to get my own health together,” the Deacon explains.

“I started pulling the [information] we were learning about nutrition into my diet,” Deacon Otey says. “The program taught us tips we could really use. In Ward 8, it’s hard to find nutritious foods like organics. Our community needs good food but budgets are very limited.”

The Deacon found great inspiration from the panel of health professionals, too. “Speaking as an African-American man, I think we have a tendency to scurry away from doctors because we don’t want to hear bad news. I learned that we need to keep our doctors’ appointments.

“But one thing really struck a place in my heart,” the Deacon says. “We shouldn’t wait until we’re called upon to get healthy.”

AmeriHealth Caritas Partnership’s Health Ministry Program is a collection of faith-based health education and prevention programs that connect the mind, body and spirit. The sessions are highly interactive, set in houses of worship and tailored to helping minority women and men learn about health risks that disproportionately affect them.

The Health Ministry’s holistic blend of preventive medicine and motivation increases awareness and support for those with chronic illnesses like diabetes, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, hypertension and depression.

1,761 women, men and children took part in programs in Pennsylvania, Louisiana, South Carolina and the District of Columbia.

28 Health Ministry Programs were held from South Carolina to Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia.
In 2013, the Partnership’s Journey to Wellness series introduced a vignette called “Stress Hurts,” a unique play connecting mind and body. The mini-dramas received an extremely favorable response from participants in South Carolina and the District of Columbia, where the programs were held.

Attendees also benefited from corresponding commentaries from a panel of physicians and other health experts. The blend of health education and pre- and post-screening for the 40-Day Journey to Wellness in Philadelphia yielded great results.

...and transform.

“ I took part in the 40-Day Journey and six weeks later, I’m standing here 12 pounds lighter! My sugar’s great, my cholesterol is great — and I lost weight! ”

Ministry participant Bev R.

Total cholesterol: 13 percent reduction in total cholesterol across both churches’ attendees.

Blood pressure: 10 percent reduction in overall blood pressure among participants in the churches.

Weight: 15 pounds lost

Ten participants in the group lost 15 pounds. Cognitive gains, where attendees reported a significant improvement in their overall well-being, rose significantly.* This included social and physical functioning, vitality and mental health. They increased their awareness of the nutrition content in foods and their willingness to try healthier foods and substitutes.

* Cognitive gains and additional important results from the 40-Day Journey can be found online in the final study at www.amerihealthcaritaspartnership.org.

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One of the fundamental goals of AmeriHealth Caritas Partnership is to address dental disparities in underserved communities. In 2009, more than 16 million low-income children went without dental care.* Lack of insurance, inability to pay and other barriers make dental care the greatest unmet need among children and a major health problem for disadvantaged adults.

Each year, the Partnership hosts a national forum to advance integrated dental-medical care as a holistic health solution. In 2013, our D. Walter Cohen, D.D.S., Integration of Dental and Medical Conference brought together some of the most distinguished thought leaders in health care for a daylong focus on this population health challenge.

Held in collaboration with AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania health plan and Keystone First health plan, the conference was sponsored in conjunction with Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine.

The conference was honored to have former Surgeon General David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D., as keynote speaker. Dr. Satcher served as surgeon general under Presidents William Jefferson Clinton and George W. Bush.

AmeriHealth Caritas Partnership hosts major medical conference

D. Walter Cohen, D.D.S., Promoting Wellness Through Collaboration: The Integration of Dental and Medical Conference

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*Pew Children’s Dental Campaign, 2012 report

Convening the experts

“To eliminate disparities in health, we need leaders who care enough, leaders who have the courage to do enough and leaders who will persevere until the job is done.”

former Surgeon General David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D., keynote speaker
At left, a young boy celebrates as the ribbon is cut on the AmeriHealth Caritas Partnership playground for intellectually and physically disabled children. The Partnership collaborated with PerformCare and other volunteers and supporters to build a playground at the Field of Dreams Park in New Jersey.

The Safe Playground Build program began in 2007 to address the need for safe, healthy play spaces for youngsters. The New Jersey park is the first of the Partnership’s 23 playgrounds (to date) designed especially for children with special needs.

Some kind of wonderful

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Thanks to the support of our many volunteers, AmeriHealth Caritas Partnership’s award-winning programs make a lasting impact: improving health awareness, reducing emergency room visits and hospital stays, assisting health care providers and keeping children safe in school and in the community.

“Health equity. Healthy lives.”

AmeriHealth Caritas Partnership implemented a coaches’ training in 2013 for recreational coaches, sports professionals, civic leaders and health educators. Programs focused on playing sports with asthma.

4,289

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