

# EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers:

Google the words “partnership,” “alliance,” “collaboration,” “coalition,” and a host of other synonyms, and you will find to varying degrees, definitions related to a coming together of individuals or organizations to achieve mutual goals.

Successful partnerships in healthcare not only include the relationship between patients and their providers, but most often they extend to others beyond the four walls of the physician’s office.

In this issue of *Community Health Forum*, I take the liberty to use the phrase “Partners in Mission” broadly to highlight the ongoing need for healthcare stakeholders (e.g., providers, patients, payers, communities, governments, etc.) to work together to bring about positive change. Shared goals include: lower costs, increased access to quality services, and ultimately, better health outcomes and improved health status for people and their communities.

Whether addressing homelessness, widespread disease prevention and control, unemployment, environmental dangers, nutrition needs, primary care workforce shortages, cultural, language or geographic barriers to care, or a host of other factors that can affect health status — all of us have a stake in creating healthier communities. “Partners in Mission” are therefore critical in healthcare. They bring to the table innovation in health delivery, resources to fill gaps and public policies that can make a positive difference in everyone’s life. Indeed, “it takes a village.”

To your good health,



Claudia Green Gibson  
Executive Vice President  
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