

# Anne E. Dyson Child Advocacy Award 2008 Recipients

**Project Leader Name:** Mana Golzari, MD

**Project Title:** Medical Homes for Youth Exiting Juvenile Detention

Medical Homes for Youth Exiting Juvenile Detention aims to create a partnership between the county juvenile hall and the UCSF pediatrics residency program in order to create medical homes for youth upon release from detention.

An estimated 120,000 adolescents under 18 years of age go through county juvenile halls (JH) as part of the California juvenile justice system each year. In 2005, there were 1,831 detentions in San Francisco's juvenile hall and an average of 100 youth in residence at any given time. These minors have substantially higher rates of morbidity and mortality compared to their peer group in addition to higher rates of co-occurring health-risk behaviors. Their time of incarceration often represents their only significant contact with a health care provider outside of an emergency setting. Although it is currently mandated that incarcerated youth receive health care services during their time in JH, the majority of this care is in the form of acute care services. These services are abruptly discontinued upon the youth's discharge back into the community. There is currently no system in place to ensure medical follow-up for youth exiting detention.

The AAP issued a policy statement in 2001 stating that children and adolescents confined to correction care facilities should have special attention focused on, among other things, the establishment of a medical home before release. The goal of our project is to create a partnership between our county juvenile hall and our pediatrics residency program in order to create medical homes for youth upon release from detention.

**Project Leader Name:** Lisa M. Guetzko, MD and Roxanna Eftekhari, MD

**Project Title:** Outreach for Refugee Children in Tampa Bay

Outreach for Refugee Children in Tampa Bay aims to address the primary health care needs of children of refugees and asylum seekers in the Tampa Bay area. This population is particularly in need of health care assistance because they typically do not have health insurance or permanent Medicaid coverage, having chosen or been forced to move from their native countries to seek asylum in the United States. The obstacles to obtaining health care for this population include not only a lack of funding, but also language, cultural, intellectual and social resources such as transportation. They provide well child checks, sports physicals, health information, fluoride dental varnishes, prescriptions, specialist referrals, general health information and academic counseling to refugee children, adolescents and families. They work with local non-profit and humanitarian organizations to identify and address the specific needs of the populations we serve. By forming partnerships with

well-established community outreach centers, they promote sustainable health care options for those who have fled their home countries to escape torture, oppression, violence, and the unimaginable. With the knowledge and assistance of their various partners, they are not only teaching their patients how to improve their health, they are also learning invaluable lessons from them about the amazing resiliency of the human spirit.

**Project Leader Name:** Alexander S. Zusman, MD, Tricia Michels Tayama, MD and Kajal Khanna, MD, JD

**Project Title:** Media Advocacy for Youth Violence

Media Advocacy for Youth Violence is a community-based child advocacy project that uses media to address the problem of youth violence in the city of San Francisco. The group began by collaborating with the Wraparound Project, an academic-community partnership that strives to reduce recidivism (return to the hospital for violent injuries) among youth in San Francisco. The focus of the Wraparound project at San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) is culturally sensitive case management services for youth who have been injured by violent crime. So far this approach has effectively lowered the recidivism rate to 3% from 35%. Last year, firearms were involved in 85% of all youth killed in San Francisco creating a tremendous need to raise awareness and generate solutions around the problem of youth violence.

Through a close relationship with their community partner, the group realized that a film could have tremendous potential to increase awareness surrounding youth injured by violence. In 2007, they created a documentary film that portrays youths' stories of recovery and re-integration following serious violence related injury. By sharing these stories, they anticipate their film will be a powerful and unique advocacy tool that can reach youth, local community-based organizations, and health care providers. Their plan is to generate collaboration, discussion, and new solutions by distributing this film through community screenings followed by panel discussions on the topic of youth violence. Thus far, they have been invited to present their film at the annual Juvenile Justice Summit in San Francisco and have subsequently been asked to show the film in the local public schools and at the quarterly UCSF Division of General Pediatrics meeting.