



Inside Scoop

April 2025 | Issue #135

WELCOMING • TRUSTED • INCLUSIVE • INTEGRATED • IMPACTFUL • RESPONSIVE

Health Brigade provides exceptional health services to those least served in a caring and non-judgmental environment.

Gathering For A Purpose

On **April 24**, HB board member **Barbara Smith** and her husband **David** welcomed community friends to their home for an evening to share the story and mission of Health Brigade. The cocktail party was cohosted by: **Drs. Wendy and Andrew Klein / Drs. Sara and Paul Monroe / Drs. Lisa and Zach Ellis / Wendy and Thomas Rosenthal**. The event raised \$30,000 for the agency!

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Photo by Patience Salgado

Celebrating Volunteers

National Volunteer Month in the United States is celebrated throughout **April**. On **April 11**, Health Brigade recognized the valuable contributions of its wonderful volunteers.

See page 4 for more photos from the volunteer appreciation event.



Photo by Bob Papas

Medical Clinic Spotlight: Vaccines Matter at Health Brigade

By Wendy Klein, MD, MACP

Public health may be battered, but it is not broken at Health Brigade. We remain deeply committed to vaccine safety and effectiveness, and to the proven benefits of routine vaccines in preventing infectious illness and fostering public health. Patients are

routinely encouraged to stay up to date with [CDC vaccine recommendations](#), including obtaining a flu vaccine annually. Walgreen's has partnered with us in conducting annual Fall flu clinics to help promote community health, and, in general, vaccines are given

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Medical Spotlight continued from page 1

daily in medical clinic by our trained Medical Assistant staff. In 2024, just under 1000 vaccines were administered.

Vaccines are routinely administered for: shingles (Shingrix), hepatitis A and B, HPV, Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (TDAP), flu, COVID (Pfizer and Moderna), and pneumococcal pneumonia (PCV 20). Health Brigade can also obtain vaccines if needed on a case-by-case basis – Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR), Polio (IPV), Meningococcal, Respiratory Syncytial

Virus (RSV), and Varicella (chickenpox).

Vaccines are provided by the Virginia Department of Health Vaccines for Adults Program, and are tracked by the Vaccines Immunization Information System (VIIS) in Virginia, which is a web-based immunization registry that communicates bidirectionally with our electronic records system.



Photo by Patience Salgado

Afghan Comprehensive Services



Spouses and children of Afghan parolees who entered after December 16, 2022; Parents or legal guardians of unaccompanied Afghan minors; Afghan refugees, Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders, asylees, and other qualifying categories.

On **April 4**, the HB Afghan Services team attended a Public Health Conference sponsored by Empowered Communities and held at the Potomac Science Center in Woodbridge, VA.

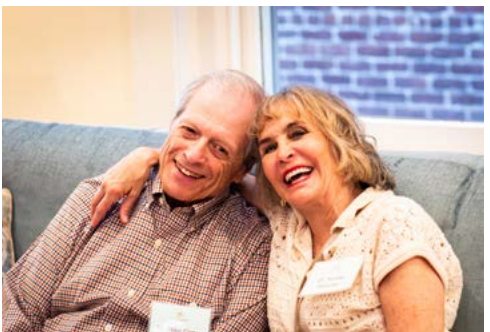
This event brought together healthcare professionals, community leaders and partners for a day of collaboration and knowledge sharing to improve public health and well-being.

The HB Afghan Comprehensive Services program partners with George Mason University and Northern Virginia Family Services providing primary medical care, mental health & wellness, and social service support.

Those eligible are Afghan citizens or nationals paroled into the U.S. between July 31, 2021 and December 16, 2022; Unaccompanied Afghan minors under age 18;

Gathering for a Cause continued from page 1

Photos by Patience Salgado



HB Services Awareness Campaign



Click image above to watch commercial.



On **April 4**, HB Donor Engagement Officer **Jo Blanton** did the honors of recording the voice track for a HB commercial. The commercial is part of an awareness campaign made possible thanks to a grant from the **Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics**.

HB in the Community



On **April 5**, Health Brigade participated in a Community Health Fair at Diversity Richmond. Pictured behind the table L to R: Emerging Leaders Council volunteer **Michelle Eglovitch**, HB staff **Jo Blanton** and HB Mental Health & Wellness volunteer **Ashley Mottley**.



On **April 9**, HB Executive Director **Karen Legato** spoke at a Public Health Forum with a panel of community leaders



at Collegiate School in Richmond. Karen shared about Healthcare Access & Health Equity from the perspective of a free clinic in the safety net. Other panelists addressed Economic Stability & Public Health; Neighborhoods, Built Environments and Health; and Social & Community Context in Health.

Celebrating Volunteers continued from page 1

Photos by Bob Papas



2025 Volunteer Honorees

L to R: **Noor Chouman**, 575 hours in Medical Clinic; **Julia Squillante**, the Dr. Jo Lynne Robins Award for Dedicated Service in Medical Clinic; **Emily Park**, 376 hours in Health Outreach; **Dana Clark**, the Bev Chamblin Award for Excellence in Mental Health & Wellness; **Ashley Mottley**, 800 hours in Mental Health & Wellness; **Joanna Fowler**, the Sid Koerin Award for Dedicated Service in Mission Support. Not pictured: **Anne Marie Fontaine**, 110 hours in Mission Support; and **Jeff Urquhart**, the Dedicated Service Award in Health Outreach & Advocacy.

Getting to Know Our Board Members

HB board member Georgia Harrington is a retired healthcare executive who believes in empowering and leading others to personal success and organizational success. She has worked in various hospital operations roles including VP of Operations and Chief Operating Officer in organizations across the Mid-Atlantic such as HCA Retreat Hospital in Richmond, VA, WakeMed Health and Hospitals in Raleigh, NC, and University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, MD. She has also served on the board of several nonprofits such as Urban Ministries, Poe Center for Health Education (both in Raleigh, NC) and the YMCA of Central Virginia.

Georgia lives in Chesterfield with her husband Jonathan. She loves outdoor concerts and spending time relaxing with family and friends.

I am passionate about serving on the Health Brigade board because I believe that every person deserves quality, cost effective healthcare. Health Brigade is a source of quality care for so many.



Photo by George Collier

HB board member Kamran Shaik owns a successful local printing business. He is also a community activist. Kamran is passionate about making a positive change in society, no matter how small or big the change is.

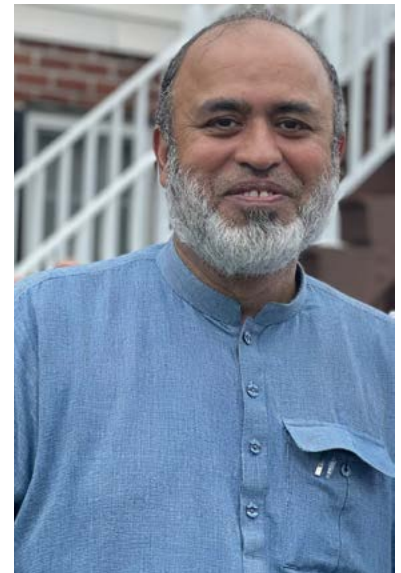
Originally from Karachi, Pakistan, Kamran embarked on a significant journey in 1999 when he moved to the United States with his 2 kids and wife Sofia.

With a background in business, Kamran brought valuable skills and a spirit of entrepreneurship to his new home, living first in Ithaca, NY and later Richmond.

"As an immigrant, you go through life changing experiences but I never lost sight of a bigger purpose in life—to serve others, wherever and whenever I could," he says.

Kamran has been an active community worker, teaching classes on early education and human development for children, as well as offering adult classes at the local Islamic center.

He has served twice as the president of the Carytown Merchant Association of Richmond, demonstrating his leadership and commitment to fostering a vibrant local business environment.



I am passionate about serving on the Health Brigade Board because of a personal experience. In 2019, my father was visiting me and was diagnosed with kidney cancer. He did not have health insurance. He was a visitor who got stuck in Richmond because of Covid. It was the great people of Health Brigade who not only provided the health services he needed but were instrumental in guiding us through the services of local hospitals. Since then, serving Health Brigade became a personal passion for me.

Welcoming New Staff



Kamiya Williams is the new Ryan White Part B and CHARLII Program Manager at Health Brigade. She is a Virginia Union alum and brings extensive experience as a social worker in program development, aging services, crisis stabilization, and mental health services. Throughout her career, Kamiya has demonstrated strong commitment to community outreach, advocacy, and improving health outcomes for diverse populations. She is passionate about expanding access to essential healthcare and social services, ensuring ALL individuals receive the support they need to thrive! Kamiya enjoys dancing, watching movies, spending time with her family and being the best mom to her 2-year-old son Khari.



Volunteers Recognized in April 2025

Natalie Ramos-Almendarez, social work volunteer through AmeriCorps, won the drawing this month. **Jenee Johnson**, HB Social Work & Support Services Manager, shared, "I want to commend you for your exceptional ability to manage a large caseload while maintaining a high standard of care!" Thank you for your hard work and dedication, Natalie!

Mohamed Adam	Lauren Farber	Jenny Pak	Lydia Shields
Rose Agarwala	Abigail Fears	Emily Park	Natalie Small
Zain Akbar	Dr. Deb Koehn	Natalie Ramos- Almendarez	Celia Strasburg
Craig Caudill	Kim Koger	Dr. Jeffry Reihl	Alice Strawn
Richa Chirravuri	Josh Marett	Mary B. Secours	Sharon Tamayo
Jordan Dail	Jackie Marin	Mindy Schuler	Olivia Warner
Carl Erickson	Patricia Munford		Mary Lou Wassel

The Bucket Brigade was started by our Volunteer Program Manager Kelsea Jeter in 2021 to provide a process for staff to recognize outstanding volunteer service.

Health Outreach Around Town



On **April 4**, the HB Comprehensive Harm Reduction and Community Health Testing teams provided Hep C/HIV testing and harm reduction services at Saint Paul's Baptist Church for the roll-out of **Dignity On**

The Go: Mobile Showers program for persons experiencing homelessness. This will be an ongoing commitment with Saint Paul's.



On **April 18**, CHR Co-Coordinator **Dziko Singleton** presented at the Recovery In Practice conference on the Recovery and Decarceration Panel at the Institute for Contemporary Art at VCU.



L to R: Mark Taylor, Motivate Clinic/VCU; Dziko Singleton; Mayor Danny Avula; and Sheyka Lyon, CARITAS.

On **April 16**, **Dziko Singleton**, CHR Co-Coordinator attended the monthly Richmond Opioid Task Force of which she and Colin King co-chair the Harm Reduction Subcommittee.

HB Over the Airwaves



L to R: HB Mental Health intern **Mindy Schuler**, HB Bilingual Mental Health Counselor **Michelle M. Aguilar** and radio show host **Adriana Diaz**.



On **April 17**, Health Brigade went on the airwaves LIVE with radio host Adriana Diaz on 94.1 FM Ultra Radio Richmond to discuss the Latino Support Circle Health Brigade offers Spanish-speaking clients and members of the public. The show touched on important topics—stigma, cultural barriers, and the power of speaking up and not being afraid to find support during hardships.

Trauma Informed Care Staff Training

Health Brigade's all-day staff training on **April 23** at the Roslyn Retreat Center was made possible by a Trauma Informed Healing Centered Approach to Care grant awarded by the Virginia Department of Health. Staff learned how trauma affects health, behavior, and engagement in care, and how to create healing-centered environments that foster trust, empowerment, and resilience.



Photos by Patience Salgado

