

We are Family

THE FAMILY VAN

Family Van
Quarterly—Spring
2006

The Family Van—Future Forward

In asking the question, “what next,” The Family Van invited a wide range of experts, supporters and friends to an exciting series of strategic planning meetings. Through a collaborative process we gained the insights of our Advisory Board, supporters, volunteers and collaborators that both recognized our past accomplishments and developed a set of organizational and service delivery goals for the future. Participants included representatives from Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation, Boston Health Care for the Homeless, The Charles & Sara Goldberg Foundation, MGH Weight Center, Harvard Medical School, Actions for Boston Community Development, Whittier Street Health Center and Mattapan Community Health Center.

The Family Van is at an

exciting crossroads where we plan to build on our tradition of being a non-judgmental haven for clients by providing new and improved service delivery. First up is on our new environmentally-friendly van! Starting in the fall, our bio-diesel van will provide our clients with state-of-the-art care and our staff with the technology to effectively manage client data and outcome tracking.

Our organizational goals include formalizing our curriculum for medical school students and residents aboard The Van. We also want to serve as a resource for other healthcare professionals interested in training with our staff on site. We will build on organizational capacity by hiring staff who reflect the communities we serve, and, of course, developing revenue streams that support the important work of The

Family Van.

Increasing services means increasing revenue! The Family Van is establishing a clear marketing and development strategy that will achieve both our financial goals and serve to keep our supporters informed about The Van’s progress, achievements and needs. We need to share the wonderful impact The Van has on Boston’s communities, medical professionals, our volunteers and donors!



Executive Director Jennifer Bennet and Van Supervisor Rainelle Walker-White at the Launch of Strategic Planning

Curbside Chronicles—A Client Profile

Augusto, a talkative 55-year-old Cape Verdean with insulin-dependent diabetes, immigrated to Portugal and then to the United States to build a better life for himself and his family.

Three years ago, he was diagnosed with diabetes, a time he describes as very

difficult. “You get sad, taking insulin every day, asking yourself when can I stop? When will I die? Who will help me? No one... And it is very expensive.” It was during this time that he stumbled across The Family Van, where he has been coming regularly to have

his glucose checked in an atmosphere that he describes as “like family.” “I know many [people] here,” Augusto says proudly as he points to the busy street through a Van window.

Through The Family Van, Augusto found that he was eligible to receive free care

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The Family Van Is Hiring!

The Family Van is currently looking for an office manager and a part-time nurse to work with clients and medical school students on The Van.

Come join The Family Van team!

For more information contact:

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The Family Van

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Curbside Chronicles—A Client Story

at Boston Medical Center where he is seen by an excellent "Brazilian kidney doctor." He continues as a regular client of The Family Van because of the service it provides—he is he is counseled by Van staff on the importance of keeping his weight under control and having his vision regularly checked—and the atmosphere.

I like it here," Augusto says. "The Van doesn't just stop here in Upham's Corner, you know. It also goes up by the Stop and Shop [in Grove Hall] where I do my shopping."



Augusto, a regular Family Van client

Help others like Augusto receive free health screenings and life-saving medical referrals!

**MAKE A DONATION
TODAY!**

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The Family Van would welcome donations of the following items .

- Adult toothbrushes
- Travel-size toothpaste
- Hand sanitizer
- Alcohol wipes
- Lysol wipes
- Color printer
- Carpet for The Van

Fresh Faces - Come Join Us!

Volunteers are an integral part of The Family Van and its successes. They directly affect the communities which we serve while providing a bridge to Boston's premier healthcare services.

We are looking for people to provide curbside care on Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings now through May. Please contact Rainelle Walker White at 617-442-3200 or Rainelle_White@hms.harvard.edu for more information.

MARKETING HELP

NEEDED. We are currently re-vamping the look and feel of The Family Van brand. We are seeking a marketing guru to help us with branding and website management.

If you are available to donate your time and talent, please call Jennifer Bennet at 617-442-3200. If you would like to learn more, email Jennifer at jennifer_bennet@hms.harvard.edu



A Family Van volunteer with a client on The Van

Stay Healthy This Spring!



Spring is a great time to commit to a healthy lifestyle change.

April is **Women's Eye Health and Safety Month**. The Prevent Blindness America Organization can help you maintain your eye health. Their website provides free information on how to preserve your sight.

[Check it out!](http://www.preventblindness.org)

<http://www.preventblindness.org>

We are Family
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Our mission is **educate, counsel** and **screen** men, women and youth about their health.

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