



Please Join Dr. Louise Berner Holmberg & the Fenix Health Center Board of Directors for the Second Annual Fenix Fiesta!



# fiesta

Friday, June 24, 5:30 to 8 p.m

- Meet our incoming staff member, Dr. Marcia Katz
- Check out the clinic improvements
- Celebrate with Mariachi Music & Buffet under a tent.
- Support a great center serving the underserved

**FENIX RISING** Thanks to generous support from family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues in the medical community, Fenix is thriving. With a growing patient base, matched with a successful Fall fundraising campaign, Fenix is expanding. The drive raised \$85,000. Clinic space will undergo a modest renovation, including lockers for volunteers and two physician work stations. Fenix' founder and director, Dr. Louise Berner Holmberg, has also signed up a new doctor who will join the practice part time.



Right to left: Anne O'Brien Prager, Margie McInerney, Sarah Shumway and Karen Mabie attending an informational tea at Lisa Peterson's Winnetka home.

**NEW FENIX FACES** Dr. Marcia Katz will join Fenix in June as a part-time family practice physician. A North Shore native, and Spanish speaker, Dr. Katz is married with two children and lives in Chicago with her husband Dr. Michael Friedman. Fenix is fortunate to have Dr. Katz join us in this competitive market. Dr. Berner and Dr. Katz were co-chief residents at Cook County Hospital. Both have been devoted to caring for with the less fortunate. They look forward to once again working together. Dr. Katz expects to begin work at Fenix in June.

Fenix has a generous Susan and John Sullivan Foundation Grant to hire a nurse practitioner. The average pay for such jobs in Lake County is \$75,000, higher if bilingual. "It's a tight market," noted Board President Mary Ellen Reynolds.

Special Thanks to Amy Jenks for her Sustain Medicine Drive, to keep Fenix stocked with free or discounted medicine.



Dr. Louise Berner (right) and Cecilia Knopfhart of Tacos El Norte.

## MEDICAL COMMUNITY ENDORSEMENT

Fenix recently received a high quality EKG machine which reads heart rate, a critical test for patients with high blood pressure and Diabetes. "We treat many, many patients with these conditions," explains Dr. Berner, whose practice emphasizes timely care for chronic illness to avoid catastrophic, expensive medical problems such as kidney failure. The EKG was donated by North Shore Dr. John Croghan, a Fenix admirer.

Another colleague, Dr. Fred Ettner, of Evanston, who works with Dr. Berner in private practice, has donated a treasure trove of medical office supplies.



Classes and consultation on weight loss, diabetes and nutrition with our community health educators (left to right) Marithza Monterroso, Karla Padilla.

**FUNDING DYNAMICS** Headlines say the State of Illinois is failing to pay its bills. Fenix billed public aid for \$186,000 in medical services, most for children, and received a payment of just \$10,000. "That is why doctors don't take public aid patients," said Dr. Berner "You have no recourse." Dr. Berner volunteers her time and must pay \$30,000 for malpractice insurance.

Most Fenix clients work but have no meaningful insurance. Hence they do not qualify for prescription discounts and neglecting medication can lead to catastrophic hospitalization. Many Fenix clients work for North Shore country clubs, restaurants and landscaping firms which do not offer insurance.

Change has been promised in recent federal health care law to help address such gaps in care. Federal guidelines to usher in standardized paperless medical care are expected soon. Funds are also expected to help pay health coaches. To capitalize on these changes, Fenix has contracted with a medical grant writer.



Community health educator Marithza Monterroso with a patient.

**HELP FENIX GROW** A fundraiser is being planned for June 25 in honor of our 1 year anniversary. The Fenix Board of Directors hopes to raise \$500,000 this year to establish an endowment. To help, contact Fenix at 847-909-2004 or log on to [www.fenixclinic.org](http://www.fenixclinic.org). Thank you!!



family health center  
centro de salud

130 washington avenue, highwood, IL 60040  
[www.fenixclinic.org](http://www.fenixclinic.org)

fiesta

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June 24, 5:30 to 8 p.m



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Strat Kennedy  
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Jesse Quintana  
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Rebecca, Louisa, Bobby  
and Max Holmberg  
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Caroline Parks  
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Nick Rachmaninoff

**Clinical Volunteers**

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Dr. Fred Ettner, Family Medicine  
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