

*Evergreen Healthcare's commitment to provide services outside the walls of our hospital is unique on the Eastside and contributes significantly to the health and well-being of our community. In this continuing series, we highlight some of the programs made possible by your levy support.*

## “Our job is to break down barriers.”

On his 48th birthday, Khin Tin stopped by a Redmond food bank where he received groceries and something he didn't expect – a blood pressure screening that led to desperately needed medical treatment, thanks to Evergreen's Healthcare Access Program (HCAP). Although Tin was suffering daily from nausea and chest pain, seeking out health care was the last thing on his mind. The immigrant from Thailand was embroiled in the daily struggle to learn English, find work and adapt to the ways of his new country.

HCAP nurse Cherie Green took Tin to the nearby Evergreen Urgent Care Center for immediate care, and then referred him to the Eastside Community Health Center for follow-up care. “The health

care system is mind-boggling for non-English speakers,” explains Green, who is also the project coordinator for HCAP. “They don't have money or transportation, so they stay home when they should be seeing the doctor.”

### LINKING TO SERVICES

Green and her colleagues function as an entry point to the health care system, educating and linking clients to affordable health care services available at Evergreen and other community organizations. The HCAP team consists of two advanced nurse practitioners,

one registered nurse, one Medicaid outreach worker/Spanish interpreter, three social workers, a dental coordinator, and access to medical and dental volunteers.

The program operates a permanent health clinic at Lake Washington Technical College in space donated by the college. HCAP staff also



Khin Tin

provides immunization and health screening clinics at community schools, churches, food banks, transitional housing, shelters and community centers to find and meet the needs of underserved residents.

HCAP clinics serve more than 3,200 people in need every year, providing health exams, diabetes and blood pressure screenings, and immunizations. HCAP also offers an adult dental clinic for \$5 per visit and a class for English-as-a-second-language students on accessing health care. These services are funded by levy monies paid by residents of the hospital district.

“For families who face barriers to health care, the important preventive steps are almost impossible to take,” Green says. “Our job is to break down those barriers.”

Khin Tin was relieved to find that he had a nerve problem treatable with medication. Cherie Green helped him fill out forms to qualify for financial assistance for medical care and prescriptions. “It was a good birthday after all,” said Tin of the gift of medical care.

*For more information on the Healthcare Access Program, please call 425.899.3251 or visit [www.evergreenhealthcare.org](http://www.evergreenhealthcare.org).*



Cherie Green, RN

### ABOUT THE EVERGREEN LEVY

About 2.7 percent – roughly \$13.2 million – of Evergreen Healthcare's annual operating budget comes from the levy money paid to King County Public Hospital District No. 2. Some of this money is used to pay for buildings and equipment; the rest funds innovative community health programs to meet the diverse needs of the area we serve. The taxation rate for 2006 is \$.31 per thousand, or \$77.21 for a \$250,000 home.



### Did you know?

Healthline is a free community service of Evergreen Healthcare. We're available 24/7 to help you:

- Find a physician
- Register for health education classes
- Talk to a nurse about a health concern

Call the Healthline at **425.899.3000.**