The Little Health Center That Could

The Tale of Lorain County Health & Dentistry

By Stephanie Wiersma
Once upon a time......

There was a little Health Center
in the middle of a
little community

Artwork by Rosaliz Santiago,
daughter of Epi Santiago
It had a little staff who came to work each day eager to help the patients feel better.

Artwork by AJ Shupe, son of Lori Shupe

Some patients had big, big problems & little hope.
But that didn’t matter to the little staff. They reached out to each patient anxious to bring a little relief.

Artwork by Katie Burke
One day,
the little Health Center
became federally qualified.
It was a big achievement for the little center.
It meant big things for the patients & the little community. It required more than a little effort on the part of the staff, but everyone agreed it was an important step towards improving the health of the little community & all who lived there.

Artwork by Paula Escobar Sams
Pretty soon, the little staff realized how very big the community’s health needs were, & how very BIG their jobs were!
They realized that every effort to help, whether big or small, would make a difference in the community. They realized that even a little difference meant a great deal, & so try they did to make a difference for each and every patient.

Artwork by Rosaliz Santiago, daughter of Epi Santiago
One day, almost like magic, the little staff realized that it was no longer little. Measured by its dedication, commitment & willingness to instill hope, the little staff had become a very BIG one.

Artwork by Jessica Kreger, daughter of Teresa Kreger
For many patients, some with big problems and little resources, the little Health Center was an answer to their prayers, a gift from God. And the little community was grateful for its improved health.
And the little Health Center with the Big staff soon became the Big Health Center with the Big staff. And everyone commented on what a Big difference the Big Health Center with the Big staff made in the little community.
And everyone lived happily ever after.

The End
(and The Beginning)

Artwork by Jenna Kreger, daughter of Teresa Kreger

“Never, never, never give up.”
Winston Churchill

Original story by Stephanie Wiersma, written in 2004. Original artwork by staff members and children, created 2012

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