

NH-PCMS BULLETIN, AUGUST 12, 2020

Who knew? (Courtesy of NCMS) This week is **National Health Center Week** (Aug. 9 – 15), a time to celebrate and raise awareness about the mission and accomplishments of health centers over the past five decades and particularly during the current pandemic.

North Carolina has 42 Community Health Centers with over 270 sites across the state, providing innovative ways to provide preventative and primary care to more than 600,000 patients, many of whom are part of underserved communities.

Each day of this week focuses on a different aspect of Community Health Centers' work. Learn more about each topic and how you can help in your community here: <https://healthcenterweek.org/focus-days/>

- Sunday: **Public Health in Housing Day**
- Monday: **Health care for the Homeless Day**
- Tuesday: **Agricultural Worker Health Day**
- Wednesday: **Patient Appreciation Day**
- Thursday: **Stakeholder Appreciation Day**
- Friday: **Health Center Staff Appreciation Day**
- Saturday: **Children's Health Day**

(NH-PCMS) During his presidential year, **Dr. Carl Rust** appointed **Dan Gottovi** to work on establishing a local health center. The fruit of **Dr. Gottovi's** and others' efforts resulted in the New Hanover Community Health Center (now MedNorth Health Center) at 925 N 4th.



Some years ago, the **Bald Head CME Retreat** was a project of the Medical Society. Work began on the next year's event almost as soon as one ended. Near the end of our run, **Dr. Ed Whitesides** headed the event committee for many seasons. The final "session" involved a sumptuous breakfast and the awarding of prizes. Someone conceived the idea of giving a funny sculpture to one couple each year. The Carp Sculpture was carefully transported to the Retreat by the previous year's winner, annually, and went home with a new couple. The sculpture has been missing for a long time. If it is in your garage, attic - or a place of honor - please Email us: MedicalSociety@NHPCMS.org.

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From its beginning in 1996, the **Retired Physicians Section** has been a force with excellent programs and unmatched fellowship. One morning, **Bronia Merlin** a survivor of Auschwitz, Freudenthal, and Ravensbruck, captivated attendees with an account of her experiences. During her talk, something unexplained and compelling happened. **Mrs. Merlin** and our executive director had never met, before, but during the talk, a powerful "connection" took place. When she finished speaking, **Mrs. Merlin** walked into the audience, took **Bonnie Brown's** face in her hands, and kissed her right cheek, with gusto. It seemed perfectly natural. A truly remarkable woman of strength and determination, **Mrs. Merlin** died in 2017 at the age of 96.

