



I first became aware of the Center for Healing and Hope from Dr. John Mann, when St. John's Catholic Church began an outreach program to meet the health needs of immigrant undocumented.

John Mann was born and raised in Elkhart County, but I first met him in La Plata, Puerto Rico. We were both serving in Alternative Service (1W) at a small rural hospital in Puerto the X-Ray Technician and Pharmacist, and I worked just across the hall in the Laboratory. We both lived in a bunkhouse on the hospital campus.

After our two years of service was completed, we each went our separate ways; I enrolled in the newly formed Medical School at the University of Puerto Rico in Rio Piedras, wh at the St. Louis School of Osteopathic Medicine in Missouri.



Dr. Troyer sees a patient at Center for Healing & Hope. Photo taken 2009.

Dr. Mann and I reconnected again in the 1960's in Elkhart County. I was practicing medicine at Goshen Hospital, and John was living in Elkhart and working at Elkhart Hospital, a

As Barb Hassan has shared before in "Stories of Hope," Dr. Mann collaborated with Father Ricardo Medina and Parish Nurse Terry Wedel, both from St. John's Catholic Church, needs of the numerous immigrants that were moving into the Elkhart community.

When I retired from active practice of medicine in 2003, I decided to volunteer as a physician at the CHH clinic, which at that time, was in the basement of a church building on S was fluent in Spanish and could communicate with Hispanic clients in their own language. Since my specialty was Gynecology, the clinic nurses would send these patients to me appreciative that they could express their healthcare concerns and receive advice in their native language. I remember receiving many blessings from those that I cared for.



Dr. Troyer reviews a case with then CHH clinic nurse Alice Shenk. Photo taken 2010.

But at that point in my life, I was also the fulltime caregiver for my handicapped wife, and it soon became apparent that she was requiring more constant care. Reluctantly I stopped being more available for her needs.

After Frances died in late 2015, I needed time to mourn her passing, and so did not immediately return to do work at CHH.

Fast forward to March 2020; I became very aware that we were in the midst of a pandemic of serious proportions, and when I received an email from CHH that they were needing to respond. So, in late April I was part of a group of persons who met for orientation to do antibody detection of Covid-19 at the CHH site on Plymouth and Main in Goshen.



Dr. Troyer evaluates multiple samples while working at the COVID-19 testing site. Photo taken 2020.

The testing was done in the church parking lot in a donated RV. After a few months, the site became an official Indiana State Testing Site, which allowed for everyone in the community to accommodate all the needs of the host of people requiring testing services, and so it was moved to Shanklin Park.

The testing process changed as the virus evolved, and surges came and went. We moved from testing for antibodies to antigens, but always the days were filled with many vehicles moving again, this time to the Silverwood Mennonite Church and parking lot on West Lincoln Avenue. I continued to volunteer on the testing line until home testing became available. The Site officially closed at the end of June, 2022.

As the Center for Healing and Hope has moved into a permanent building in downtown Goshen, it also has evolved from its small beginning into a significant role in Goshen's Community (diabetes alliance program), GRID, Natural Helpers, and the annual 'Festival of Hope' all signify growth and maturation of this important resource. May it Live Long and Prosper!

Tune in next month for another story!