



CORNERSTONE

A publication of the TORCH Foundation

April 2010

TORCH Celebrates 20th Anniversary

This year TORCH celebrates 20 successful years of great service for rural and community hospitals in Texas. What began as a recognition of the need for an association for rural hospitals, has over the years become something much more...an emboldened, tested and enduring mission of being the principle advocate and voice for our members—a living legacy and testament of the great importance and vitality of our rural Texas hospitals and their communities.

Today, our membership is strong and growing. We owe our gratitude and success to the continued support and trust of our valued members and partners. As TORCH celebrates this momentous milestone, we affirm our vision, purpose and commitment to serve the needs and priorities of our members with utmost care, resolve and integrity.

A special dinner and awards ceremony is planned at the TORCH Annual Conference on April 15th at 7 pm to mark this wonderful occasion. Please join us to celebrate TORCH's remarkable 20 years of meaningful service to rural and community hospitals.

New Grant-funded Texas Patient Safety Organization (TXPSO) Program

The TORCH Foundation received a grant from the Texas Department of Rural Affairs (TDRA) to support the Texas Patient Safety Organization (TXPSO) program for rural and community hospitals in Texas. The purpose of the TXPSO program is to help hospitals and healthcare providers to voluntarily submit and analyze information about incidences in which patients were adversely affected in order to mitigate future adverse events.

The Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005 established strong Federal confidentiality and privilege protections for information to create a secure environment where clinicians and healthcare organizations can report and analyze patient safety data. The TXPSO program provides

many significant benefits, including:

- **Strong Federal confidentiality and privilege protections** so that healthcare organizations and clinicians can report, aggregate and analyze patient safety events, medical errors and quality information without fear of legal discovery or additional liability;
- **Facility-specific and aggregated analysis** of submitted incident reports for comparison and benchmarking to help hospitals learn from the experiences of others (all reported data is de-identified and strictly confidential and protected);
- **Online access to comparative data and reports** to help improve processes and develop best practices;
- **Meaningful aggregation and analysis of data using Common Formats** to collect, track and submit standardized information regarding a range of patient safety events, including incidents, near misses and unsafe conditions for comparative and longitudinal analysis of similar cases among similar providers. Common Formats optimize the opportunity to compare trends and identify patterns underlying the causes of patient safety problems; and
- **Grant funding** to strengthen a culture of patient safety and risk management without incurring significant out-of-pocket cost.

Grant funding is available to all rural and community hospitals under 50 licensed beds to access the TXPSO

IN THIS ISSUE

- TORCH Celebrates 20th Anniversary
- New Grant-funded Texas Patient Safety Organization (TXPSO) Program
- TORCHcast Webinar Program Adds New Home Health Education Sessions
- TORCH Foundation Hosts 2nd Annual Silent Auction
- TORCH Foundation Scholarship/Stipend Award Recipients
- Recent Headline News
 - Medicare Advantage payment rates unchanged in 2011
 - CMS to host teleconference on permanent RAC program
 - 37 Senators submit recommendations to HHS Secretary on adoption and meaningful use of HIT
- TORCH Leadership & Management Institute (TLMI) Program Expands
- Sponsorship Opportunity
- WorkSource – New Online Job Search Engine
- Upcoming Events:
Schedule-at-a-Glance

TO RECEIVE THIS PUBLICATION:

If you are a TORCH or Foundation member and would like to receive this publication electronically, please email Quang Ngo at quang.ngo@torchnet.org with the following information: full name and title, name of organization to which you belong/represent, your phone number, and your fax number.

services at no cost (except for a one-time setup fee of \$500). See below for the annual participation fees.

Annual Participation Fees

Facilities with...	Annual Fee	One-time Setup Fee
<50 beds*	\$0 (grant funded)	\$500
50-100 beds	\$2,500	\$1,000
101-150 beds	\$3,500	\$1,500
>150 beds	\$5,000	\$2,000

*Licensed beds

For more information, contact Quang Ngo at quang.ngo@torchnet.org or simply download a factsheet on our website. Don't miss out. Sign up today to participate!

TORCHcast Webinar Program Adds New Home Health Education Sessions

The Texas Hospital Home Health Association (THHHA) and TORCH are teaming up to provide quality education through an online webinar education program powered by TORCHcast. This program is a convenient and affordable way to receive the most up-to-date information on a variety of issues and topics relevant to home health. Scheduled sessions include:

- Customer Satisfaction – HHCAPHS
- Coding Series – Sequencing and Appendix D of Oasis-C Manual
- Survey and Certifications (DADS)
- Legal and Regulatory Issues/Updates
- Ethics in Home Care
- Quality and Performance
- Emergency Preparedness
- Reimbursement
- Medicare and Billing
- Oasis-C

For more information, contact Dawn Haberkorn, Director of Education Services, dawn.haberkorn@torchnet.org or call (512) 873-0045.

TORCH Foundation Hosts 2nd Annual Silent Auction

The TORCH Foundation is hosting its 2nd Annual Silent Auction, which will be held during the 2010 TORCH Annual Conference on April 14-16th. This is a great opportunity

for everyone to contribute to a worthy cause and to showcase your support for rural healthcare. Proceeds from the silent auction go to provide education scholarships and stipends to MHA students as well as hospital staff. **Thank you to all who have donated** to the Silent Auction last year and this year. We count on your support to make this a successful event. Join us at the Hotel Inter-Continental Dallas to bid and bid often! The winners will be announced Thursday, April 15th during the evening reception.

TORCH Foundation Scholarship/Stipend Award Recipients

From last year's Silent Auction proceeds, the TORCH Foundation was able to award four education scholarships and stipends to the following individuals:

- **Amy Lawler**, Texas A&M University – Texas MHA Scholarship Award Recipient
- **Matthew Wylie**, Summer Internship at Uvalde Memorial Hospital – Rural Healthcare Internship Stipend Award Recipient
- **Larry Price**, Assistant Administrator, Limestone Medical Center – Continuing Education Stipend Award Recipient
- **Helen Ann Dodson**, Assisted Manager, D.M. Cogdell Memorial Hospital – Continuing Education Stipend Award Recipient

These scholarship recipients will be formally recognized at the TORCH Annual Conference 20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner on April 15th. We are proud of their achievements and applaud their dedication to rural healthcare. Congratulations to all!

Recent Headline News

Medicare Advantage payment rates remain unchanged for CY 2011, Announced CMS: <http://www.cms.gov/MedicareAdvgtgSpecRateStats/Downloads/Announcement2011.pdf>

CMS to host teleconference on permanent RAC program on April 28th from 12-1:30pm CST: dial (877) 251-0301. For more information on the calls for other providers, visit www.cms.gov/RAC.

Thirty-seven Senators made recommendations to the HHS Secretary on the adoption and meaningful use of HIT. The Senators:

- Ask that “the proposed rule be modified from its current ‘all-or-nothing’ approach to one that allows providers to defer a limited set of criteria under Stage 1 of meaningful use while preserving a floor of mandatory functional use requirements.”
- Note that, “despite legislative intent, outpatient physicians practicing adjacent to hospitals were excluded from HIT incentive eligibility, making it more challenging for these providers to receive the HIT incentives. A technical correction to ameliorate this oversight has been included in the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act which recently passed the Senate. However, we ask that you use your administrative flexibility to rectify this concern, regardless of the outcome of the pending legislation.”
- “Finally, the use of Medicare provider numbers to distinguish hospitals for the purpose of receiving incentive payments for meaningful use may create some unintended inequities. ... We urge you to consider how this shortcoming could be best addressed.”

See full letter: <http://finance.senate.gov/newsroom/chairman/release/?id=031d70e5-6181-43e2-8d6f-f3f3261741ba>

IT HELPDESK

For Foundation Members

- TORCH Foundation Help Desk: (512) 528-9691 or email issues to admins@talho.org
- On-call (after hours) Help Desk: (512) 528-9726
- Check Out Our New IT Forum for Foundation Members at www.torchnet.org/foundation

TORCH Leadership & Management Institute (TLMI) Program Expands

The TORCH Leadership & Management Institute (TLMI) was created in 2006 to provide effective leadership and management training to promote professional and personal development of healthcare executives and emerging leaders in rural and community hospitals in Texas.

This year, TORCH and the Foundation are expanding the leadership program to provide not only outstanding leadership education and training, but also to offer exciting new initiatives like leadership mentoring for students, a fellow training program for healthcare professionals, sponsorship, leadership involvement and networking opportunities. Whether you are an experienced or new healthcare executive, director, manager, professional staff, or a student pursuing a career in healthcare. This program is designed for you.

To cultivate professional and personal success, the leadership program will focus on a set of essential leadership skills, knowledge, attributes and competencies that will enhance a leader's performance. Key areas of TLMI's leadership education and training include:

- Leadership development, coaching and mentoring;
- Communications and team building
- Emotional intelligence;
- Core values, vision and strategy execution;
- Talent cultivation and management;
- Performance excellence and service oriented culture;
- Ethics and professionalism; and
- Networking and relationship building

Join your colleagues and connect with industry experts and healthcare leaders for an invaluable learning and networking experience through TLMI. Watch for program details coming soon.

Sponsorship Opportunities

For the first time ever, we are offering an *exclusive sponsorship opportunity available to only 10 sponsors*. Your sponsorship entitles you to:

- Participate in the TORCH Leadership & Management Institute Conference & Retreat, previous reserved for and accessible only to hospital executives and their leadership staff;
- Attend and exhibit at the Texas Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Conference & Tradeshow; and
- Attend and exhibit at the Hospital Information Technology Conference (HITCON) & Tradeshow.

Sponsors receive two complimentary registrations for each of these conferences and a guaranteed exhibit booth space at the CAH and HITCON event. Please contact us for availability.

WorkSource – New Online Job Search Engine

The TORCH Foundation is about to launch WorkSource, our new recruiting tool that can help rural hospitals seek qualified healthcare professionals and jobseekers find rural employment opportunities. WorkSource is an easy-to-use online employment search engine designed specifically for rural and community hospitals and healthcare providers.

WorkSource allows you to:

- Match professional profiles with rural employment/practice opportunities;
- Assist rural healthcare employers find the “right” qualified professionals;
- Connect promising soon-to-be and recent graduates with rural healthcare communities; and
- Access best practices and tools, scholarship information and training resources for healthcare career advancement opportunities.

Watch for more information coming soon.

Upcoming Events: *Schedule-at-a-Glance*

Texas Critical Access Hospital Conference & Tradeshow – June 30-July 1, 2010 at the Sheraton Hotel in Austin, TX. This event is hosted jointly by the TORCH Foundation and the Texas Department of Rural Affairs exclusively for Texas CAHs.

Northwest Texas Hospital Association Annual Convention (NWTHA) – July 14-16, 2010 at the MCM Elegante Suits in Abilene, TX

Texas Association of Rural Health Clinics (TARHC) Annual Conference – August 10-12, 2010 at the Omni Hotel in Austin, TX

TORCH Leadership & Management Institute (TLMI) Annual Conference & Retreat – September 8-9, 2010 at the Horseshoe Bay Resort outside of Austin, TX

Rural Hospital Information Technology Conference (HITCON) & Tradeshow – October 20-21, 2010 at the Westin at the Domain in Austin, TX. This is the leading conference and networking event on rural health IT.

Save the dates and watch for program details coming soon!

CONTACT US

Quang Ngo, PMP
President/CEO, TORCH Foundation
quang.ngo@torchnet.org

Dawn Haberkorn, PMP
Director of Education Services
dawn.haberkorn@torchnet.org

505 E. Huntland Drive, Suite 150
Austin, TX 78752

(512) 873-0045
(512) 873-0046 fax

<http://foundation.torchnet.org>



Cornerstone is a publication of the **TORCH Foundation**, a nonprofit affiliate of the Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals (TORCH). The Foundation's mission is to promote the success of rural Texas hospitals by working collaboratively and leveraging resources to provide quality programs and services. **Cornerstone** provides information on activities, programs and resources for Foundation members. We welcome your input and look forward to hearing from you. For more information, email quang.ngo@torchnet.org or visit our website at <http://foundation.torchnet.org>.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



An Affiliate of
*Texas Organization of Rural
& Community Hospitals*

**P.O. Box 14547
Austin, TX 78761**

**505 E. Huntland Drive, Suite 150
Austin, TX 78752**

**512-873-0045
512-873-0046 fax
<http://foundation.torchnet.org>**

CORNERSTONE

April 2010

A publication of the TORCH Foundation

