

Greetings and Merry Christmas from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! This year has passed by so quickly and so many plans have been developed for health care services to all our Chickasaws that live outside the Nation. I hope you have all learned about those services and are aware that a toll-free number exists for your use 1-800-851-9136. More information is also available on our web site www.chickasaw.net.

Sandi Sanders, Director of Tribal Health, and Chickasaw Nation Health System Administrator Bill Lance gave a PowerPoint presentation and spoke to the Health Care Committee this month regarding services for Chickasaws that live outside the Nation. A new program began on October 1 which allows all Chickasaws over 60 and under 18 to send their eyeglass prescription to Oklahoma Optical, which is owned by the Chickasaw Nation, for the glasses to be made. Frame selections are on our web site. Choose the frame before going to your doctor so you can tell him the name and number of your frame and your doctor will then write the correct prescription. The program will pay \$125 toward the cost of the glasses. This benefit is available to qualified participants every 2 years. This program is currently available only to Chickasaws over 60 or under 18 years of age; however, beginning on June 1, 2007, it will be available to all Chickasaws regardless of their age or location.

Administrator Bill Lance submits the following statistics: In the month of October, 2006, there were 205 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 15,564. October Emergency Room visits were 1,007. October r saw 267 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,510 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 4,578 patients in October. The Ardmore Clinic saw 3,546 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,217. The Durant Clinic saw 2,574 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 1,516 in October.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!! May you all enjoy good health. I would love to hear from you! Please contact me through my email address mary.green@chickasaw.net or through the address and telephone number listed elsewhere in this and every issue of the Chickasaw Times and on the Chickasaw Nation web site. My articles are also located on the web site. Until next month, thank you.