

Greetings and Happy New Year from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Chairman of the Health Care Committee! Winter is almost gone and the trees are starting to show new life as they grow leaf buds in anticipation of spring time. We are certainly ready for warmer weather.

Bill Lance, Administrator of the Chickasaw Health System has provided the following information for this month's report. In the month of January, 2005, the number of hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility 237. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 14,424. January Emergency Room visits were 1,107 and the number of surgeries was 238. The Same-day Clinic saw 3,238 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 2,140 patients in January. The Ardmore Clinic saw 3,168 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,517 patients. The Durant Clinic saw 2,401 patients in January and the Purcell Clinic saw 875 patients. The Purcell Clinic has now seen a total of 2,460 since it opened its doors.

Mr. Lance also reported that Dr. James Moody from Moore is the new physician at Ardmore and Dr. Ken Johnson is the new dentist at the Tishomingo Clinic. Both doctors bring extensive experience to the Health System and we are very fortunate to have finally filled our staffing needs with such well-credentialed health care providers.

The Chickasaw Foundation made its annual presentation to the Legislature in January. The progress made by the Foundation over the last 12 months has been dramatic! I am very pleased that the Foundation now offers no less than 14 scholarships for Chickasaw students. So, students, don't forget to apply for financial aid at both the Education Department and the Chickasaw Foundation.

Two of the scholarships were made possible by generous donations from our tribally-owned Bank2. The Bank2 Banking Scholarship is given in the memory of Robert "Bob" Walton who was a Tribal Legislator and was very influential in the creation of Bank2. The scholarship provides \$3,000 per year for a Chickasaw student studying business, finance or accounting and who is interested in pursuing a career in banking. The Bank2 Ta-ossaa-ashá Scholarship provides \$1,000 per year for 3 Chickasaw students who are studying business, finance or accounting and who are interested in pursuing a career in banking.

Information regarding all the Foundation scholarships and the application form are available on the home page of www.chickasaw.net.

I now have the email address mary.green@chickasaw.net. Please contact me through email 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. I look forward to speaking with you! Until next month, thank you.