

A SHOT IN TIME SAVES LIVES

For more than a year, the adversities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have altered the lives of everyone for the worse; for people in the Delta, they also magnified an old plight—poor access to equitable medical care.

But the Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center is grateful for the good Samaritans who came to our aid this spring. Let us thank our partners—the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University at Jonesboro, the Delta Population Health Institute and the Delta Care-a-Van—for getting lots of people in our rural communities vaccinated against the deadly virus



BGACDC has partnered with many community-based organizations to improve healthcare equity during the crisis. Many households in the Delta had poor access to and misinformation about the virus and the vaccine. Many avoided the medical choices because they did not deem the vaccine to be an immediate necessity. Doctor visits and health supplies are often low on the list of a family's priorities.

Business closings and other impacts of the pandemic on the daily lives of rural and small-town families displaced regular preventive health care and increased the demand for assistance. BGACDC partnered with community-based organizations to provide access to sanitation supplies such as masks and sanitizers and, finally, the vaccine.



The NYIT osteopathic college at ASU, its Care-a-Van and the Delta Population Health Institute participated in the effort to reach some 200 Phillips Countians with the vaccine, including 69 individuals at vaccine events March 19 and April 16 at Marvell.

There is still much, much work to do to ensure that all of us get the tools to become and remain healthy in this and perhaps future pandemics.