

THE KENNETH B. SCHWARTZ CENTER

Dedicated to strengthening the relationship between patients and caregivers

Gregory Fenton, MD Sidney Borum, Jr. Health Center at JRI Health

Gregory Fenton, MD, has many patients who lead chaotic lives, at times cut short by illness, addiction and violence. They are the young transgendered woman, rejected by her family and making her living on the street; the abused youth shuttling from foster home to foster home; the gay homeless teenager living with AIDS and severe mental illness. An infectious disease specialist, Gregory provides superb medical care in a health center that is the only safe haven in many of their lives. He listens compassionately and supports unconditionally.

“Dr. Fenton and I weathered the many trials and tribulations, the joys and sorrows, as a team because in his heart he held a genuine desire for me to have the best possible life,” said one patient, a young mother with a background of severe abuse. “He was a shoulder to cry on when I was scared and a comedian when I needed to laugh.”

Gregory’s modus operandi is to reach out. When patients go missing from his practice, he will track them down on the street or in shelters to make sure they are safe and taking their medications. He runs an *Ask Dr. Greg* program at a community center for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender and Questioning young people, where participants can ask him any medical or health-related question or share a concern. He developed a peer navigator program so that Borum patients who are nervous about going to the ER or a hospital clinic are accompanied by another patient. And through his teaching and advocacy, he has shaped the way other health centers attend to the medical and social needs of young people with HIV/AIDS.

As the end draws near, Gregory’s patients know he will do whatever he can to comfort them – visiting them daily at the hospital, helping effect reconciliations with estranged parents, and simply being a constant, loving presence.