

MEET YOUR *neighbors*

By Sydelle Barreto



Fost-ering Compassion in the Community



Arthur and David Fost share more than just genes and a practice. The father-son duo, who also have a practice as allergists together, have a deep commitment to the community. It may sound cheesy but after speaking to the Drs. Fost anyone can tell the two are extremely compassionate and dedicated to helping people, not just in their locality, but abroad as well.

David got his start helping his father in his work in the Third World. David was still training as a pediatrician and it was the first time father and son worked together in a medical capacity. It was in a clinic in the mountains of Guatemala that the two took a walk together and talked it out, and according to Arthur, they've "never had a disagreement since." David added, "since we're genetically similar, our thoughts tend to be similar as well." David is not just follow-

ing in his father's footsteps, but also his grandfather's, as a third generation allergist.

The two are partners in three practices, Verona, the hub, Belleville, and Sparta, and work with three other doctors. The Drs. Fost specialize in general allergies, skin problems, with a special interest in travel medicine, offering immunizations with a side helping of advice. Arthur has been to Ethiopia, Rwanda, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

On a topic much closer to home, the Fosts voiced their support for Obamacare, "it's very positive, the country needed the problems of medicine to be addressed. These changes in the American health system are a step in the right direction" said the senior Fost. David echoed his father's response, "it's about taking care of the patients, it's about the people." They both agree that anything that enables more people to get to them is a plus. People may doubt and debate the various aspects of Obamacare, but what I'm sure everyone can agree on is the effectiveness of the health care system rests on dedicated doctors such as the Fosts.

Besides taking care of the allergies in Essex County, David Fost is also a volunteer coach at West Essex Junior High School, a tough addition to his busy schedule but "life in general is always a balancing act," said David. Their devotion to the community also extends to the rest of their family, David's wife Patti is a councilwoman in North Caldwell and Arthur's wife, Ruth, is a the founder and manager of Pushcart Players, a touring theater company for young people that has performed several times in North Caldwell.

Will there be another Fost entering the allergist world? David's son claims he wants to be a doctor but as an eighth grader, he has plenty of time to decide. And whatever his decision, you can be sure that we will be hearing of the Fosts in the North Caldwell community for a long time to come.