Our goal is to connect immigrant and non-English speaking families with health care, in order to reliably and consistently meet their needs, so that this population can rely less on the expensive services of emergency rooms, or unreliable pop-up clinics.

Establishing a relationship with a healthcare professional over a lifetime contributes significantly to overall health (DuPlessis & Cora-Bramble, 2005). Immigrants are significantly more likely to lack insurance coverage and consistent access to healthcare.

Language barriers are particularly potent when it comes to utilizing existing, available healthcare resources - to the point that some immigrants will continue to seek care from their home country, rather than use the system in the United States. (Yu, Huang, Schwalberg & Nyman, 2006).

Pahealthyconnections.weebly.com

Languages currently available:
Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Russian, Ukrainian, Arabic, Chinese, and English

What We’ve Done

• Created pahealthyconnections.weebly.com, a website that compiles health care resources and videos in several foreign languages
• Created short Universal Health Symbols videos in multiple languages
• Included national, state, and local health information and resources, available in multiple foreign languages

Future Development

• Translate our website into a mobile app
• Partner with community organizations to disseminate information about our product
• Partner with other libraries to create community-oriented programming around the product
• Establish a social media presence to further market our product

Some Statistics

• In 2010, nearly 10% of people in Pennsylvania spoke a language other than English (Modern Language Association).
• U.S. Census data indicates that this number has risen to 10.5% (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015).
• In Pennsylvania, Spanish is the most common language spoken, other than English.
• In 2014, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that 20.9% of people in the United States speak a language other than English at home. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014).
• Approximately 40% of this population reported that they speak English less than “very well,” and are considered “Limited English Proficient” (LEP). Not all these individuals are foreign-born (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014).
• In 2014, a third of naturalized U.S. citizens still considered themselves to have limited English proficiency (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014).

References