

BSP Free Clinic Fact Sheet

Our Mission

Benevolent Specialists Project (BSP) Free Clinic volunteers provide specialty care to uninsured, low-income patients referred by clinicians in South-Central Wisconsin.

Our History

Originally founded under the umbrella of the Dean Foundation in 2001 by local physicians, Ernie Pellegrino, Paul Simenstad, and Walter Sundstrom, BSP Clinic became an independent 501(c)(3) in 2018. BSP is the only free clinic in Wisconsin to focus on specialty care.

Whom We Serve

In recent years, we have averaged 90 patient visits per month. Patients must be uninsured and referred by a primary care provider to be eligible for specialty care at BSP.

Specialty Care By Appointment

Our staff receives referrals from primary care organizations and schedules appointments for specialty care consults. About 25 percent of our patients require medical tests, including x-rays, blood work, and MRIs, which are provided in kind by local groups. In some cases, a patient may require more complex care, including surgery. The BSP staff works with community health organizations to facilitate access to this care. Our goal is to offer uninsured patients access to a similar range of specialists that is available to those with insurance – head-to-toe care.

Our Volunteers

Prior to the pandemic, BSP maintained a team of 35 volunteer physicians and over 50 additional volunteers, including physician assistants, physical therapists, nurses, and interpreters. With many safety protocols in place, a core group of medical volunteers continued to care for patients during the pandemic, both in the clinic and through telemedicine. The majority of our medical volunteers are planning to return to the clinic once they have received a vaccine. Our volunteer practitioners represent a variety of medical specialties, such as cardiology, ophthalmology, rheumatology, orthopedics, dermatology, neurology, psychiatry, and many more.

Our Partners

Our patients are referred by over 30 primary care organizations in South-Central Wisconsin. The clinic works closely with referring clinicians to advance the care of each patient. BSP also partners with local community care programs to coordinate free diagnostics and treatment for some patients who need additional services.

Annual Budget (Cash)

Our 2021 Cash Budget is projected at \$222,600. The clinic receives annual gifts from foundations, corporations, and individuals. We estimate that for every \$1 contributed to the clinic, our volunteers provide \$5 of direct patient care.

2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Medical volunteers provide an average of over 1,000 patient visits yearly. (Fewer patients were seen in 2020, due to COVID-19 and a temporary closure of the clinic.)
- Physicians diagnosed life-threatening illnesses, including various cancers, cardiac events, and renal failure.
- Telemedicine has been fully implemented and used for patient visits, when appropriate.
- A pilot partnership with Share the Health gynecologist volunteers has been initiated to diagnose and treat pre-cancerous and cancerous gynecologic conditions.
- As a result of adding interpreter hours and volunteers, the wait time for a scheduled appointment was reduced and more Spanish-speaking patients are receiving care.
- Clinic hours were increased to respond more quickly to referrals and provide extra spacing in the clinic to keep patients, volunteers, and staff safe.
- By better managing their chronic conditions at BSP, patients reduced costly trips to the emergency room and often avoided more serious illness.



BENEVOLENT SPECIALISTS PROJECT

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