

Specialty Care ✦ Free Clinic

1409 Emil St., Suite 120 • Madison, WI 53713

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Clinic Open: Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday

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Our Mission

Volunteers provide specialty medical care to uninsured, low-income patients referred by clinicians in south-central Wisconsin.

Our History

The clinic was founded in 2001 by local physicians Ernie Pellegrino, Paul Simenstad, and Walter Sundstrom.

Whom We Serve

Patients must be uninsured and referred by a primary care provider to be eligible for free specialty care at our clinic. For many of our patients, it is the first time they have seen a specialist. More than two-thirds of our patients are Spanish-speaking and use the services of our interpreter.

Specialty Care By Appointment

Our staff receives referrals from primary care clinics and schedules appointments for specialty care consults. Our goal is to offer uninsured patients access to a similar range of specialists available to those with insurance – head-to-toe care.

Our Volunteers

Specialty Care Free Clinic maintains a team of 40 physicians and over 50 additional volunteers, including nurses, physician assistants, physical therapists, and interpreters. Our volunteer clinicians represent a variety of medical specialties – cardiology, ophthalmology, rheumatology, psychiatry, gynecology, orthopedics, neurology, pulmonology, physical therapy, and many more.

Our Partners

Patients are referred to our clinic by over 20 primary care organizations in south-central Wisconsin. Our clinic works closely with referring clinicians to advance the care of each patient. Approximately 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. Specialty Care Free Clinic staff work with community care programs at local healthcare organizations to facilitate access to this care.

Annual Operating Budget

Our 2022 Operating Budget is projected at \$281,965. The clinic is funded through annual gifts from foundations, corporations, and individuals. We estimate that for every \$1 contributed to the clinic, our medical volunteers provide \$5 of direct patient care.

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The clinic moved from its original crowded basement location in Middleton to a new ground-level space with natural light, centrally located on Emil Street in Madison. The new clinic is more spacious and provides increased privacy for patients.
- Over 1,200 free specialty care patient visits were provided in 2021, a 13% increase over recent years.
- Medical volunteers vaccinated over 1,100 individuals at 15 mobile COVID-19 vaccination clinics held throughout the community, and 82% returned for their second vaccine.
- Physicians diagnosed a number of life-threatening illnesses, including various cancers, cardiac events, and renal failure.
- The use of telemedicine has been increased for patient visits, when appropriate.
- Care for women has been expanded through a new partnership with Share the Health Free Gynecology Clinic, which provides services focused on prevention and early treatment of gynecologic cancers.
- By better managing their chronic conditions at our clinic, patients reduced costly trips to the emergency room and often avoided more serious illness.