

Specialty Care Free Clinic

(Formerly BSP Free Clinic)

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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 clinic does not duplicate basic health care services that are provided by other free primary care clinics, but fills a critical gap for those patients who have complex medical conditions or illnesses that require the services of a physician specialist. Our goal is to offer uninsured patients access to specialty care that is often only available to those with insurance.

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 interpreters.

Our Volunteers

Specialty Care Free Clinic maintains a team of 40 physicians and over 50 additional volunteers, including nurses, physician assistants, physical therapists, patient care assistants, and interpreters. Our volunteer clinicians represent 21 medical specialties, including cardiology, ophthalmology, psychiatry, gynecology, rheumatology, orthopedics, neurology, pulmonology, dermatology, and physical therapy.

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 2023 operating budget is projected at \$391,427. The clinic is funded through annual gifts from local foundations, corporations, and individuals. Donations are appreciated and accepted via check, PayPal, or Venmo. (See QR code at top of page.)

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The clinic moved from its original crowded basement location in Middleton to a ground-level space with natural light on Emil Street in Madison. The spacious new clinic is more centrally located and provides improved access and privacy for patients.
- 1,395 patient care visits were provided in 2022, a significant increase over recent years.
- Two new specialties are now offered, Diabetic Education and Allergy & Immunology.
- Physicians diagnosed a number of life-threatening illnesses, including various cancers, cardiac events, and renal failures.
- 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 gynecological cancers.
- By better managing their chronic conditions at our clinic, patients reduced costly trips to the emergency room and often avoided more serious illness.