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MISSION STATEMENT

The Chippewa Valley Free Clinic's mission is to provide quality healthcare and advocacy for individuals for the Chippewa Valley Area who have no reasonable health care alternative.



There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.

- Unknown

FROM OUR VOLUNTEERS...

It is amazing how much good this clinic does for our community in so many ways! I am all about this!
– Denise W., Volunteer Special Projects

I am quite a new volunteer here at the Free Clinic, but it seems like the group of staff and volunteers work very well together and are a dedicated group. I enjoy my time every time I volunteer.
– Linda F., Volunteer Intake Coordinator

The people are great to be around. I love being able to help out. Feels good for the soul.
– Karen B., Volunteer Receptionist



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CHECKUp

FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

GOVERNOR EVERS VISITS THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY FREE CLINIC

The Chippewa Valley Free Clinic was honored to welcome Governor Tony Evers in August. His visit allowed us to showcase the work we do every day to support individuals and families in our community who otherwise might go without access to health care.

In the past year alone, our clinic served 649 unique patients thanks to the dedication of our 141 active volunteers, staff, and through the generosity of community donors and grants. The clinic serves patients whose incomes are at or below 250% of the federal poverty level, many of whom are living with chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, asthma, and heart disease. Without the clinic, many would have no other options for health care.

Governor Evers highlighted the importance of free and charitable clinics like ours and discussed how the new state budget includes \$1.5 million in increased funding for clinics across Wisconsin. Our own clinic received \$75,000 for the fiscal year 2024–25. This funding is vital to our mission of breaking barriers to health care access.

Yet the challenges to operating the clinic are significant. We rely heavily on volunteers, donations, and continued support from state and federal partners to keep our doors open to serve thousands of people in need.

Governor Evers acknowledged that while the increase in funding is helpful, uncertainty from federal policy decisions makes the future less predictable. "Things are going well, but I'm really concerned going forward," he told us.

His visit was an encouraging reminder that the work we do at the Chippewa Valley Free Clinic is not only recognized but valued at the highest levels of state leadership. With the ongoing support of our community, volunteers, and partners, we remain committed to ensuring health care access for those who need it most.

Wendy Andre, Executive Director
Chippewa Valley Free Clinic



L to R Board of Directors President Lisa Schiller, Governor Tony Evers, DHS Secretary Kirsten Johnson, Medical Director Lori Whitis MD, Dispensary Assistant Ken Adler MD



L to R Medical Director Lori Whitis MD, Senator Jeff Smith, Governor Tony Evers, DHS Secretary Kirsten Johnson, Executive Director Wendy Andre, Director of Clinical Services Robin Kranig, Board of Directors President Lisa Schiller

Since 1997, we've saved lives through 64,808 patient visits. This wouldn't be possible without you!

OUR DISPENSARY: DAY IN THE LIFE

We are thrilled to share the impact of your generous support at our free clinic's dispensary, a vital lifeline for our community's most vulnerable. Thanks to your contributions, we've provided 3,700 essential medications within the past year, ensuring access to life-saving treatments for those who cannot afford them. From managing chronic conditions like diabetes to offering acute care for infections, the dispensary has become a beacon of hope, bridging the gap between health and hardship. Your donations stock our shelves and empower our dedicated volunteers to deliver compassionate care, transforming lives one prescription at a time. Together, we're building a healthier future. Thank you for making this possible!

-Tim Sexton, PharmD, Dispensary Manager



faces OF THE CLINIC

MARIA'S JOURNEY FROM PAIN TO HEALING

When Maria first arrived at the Chippewa Valley Free Clinic, she was exhausted, physically and emotionally. She had been silently suffering for months with fatigue, dizziness, and lightheadedness. Uninsured and unable to speak English, Maria didn't know what to expect, but she came with hope.

After a thorough exam, Maria was diagnosed with severe anemia. Iron supplements helped, but her symptoms persisted. Further testing revealed the cause: adenomyosis and multiple fibroids, which were leading to long, painful menstrual cycles and chronic anemia.

Her care team recommended a hysterectomy, a life-changing surgery. For someone in Maria's situation, it seemed out of reach. Thanks to the clinic's resources and support, it became possible.

With help from the clinic's Hispanic case manager, Maria navigated paperwork, appointments, and financial aid; she was never alone. Her case manager became a lifeline, offering guidance, reassurance, and advocacy every step of the way.

The surgery was a success. Maria's pain and bleeding stopped, her energy returned, and her anemia was resolved. She could work again, move freely, and look to the future with confidence.

Reflecting on her experience, Maria shared:

"All the attention that I have been given has been of great support. Personally, I have always been very well taken care of by each staff member I encounter."

Maria's story is a powerful reminder of the clinic's mission: to provide compassionate, dignified care to those who need it most. We provide Maria and many others at the Chippewa Valley Free Clinic with more than healthcare. We provide them with a second chance.

EVENING OF GRATITUDE

On Monday, September 15th, the Chippewa Valley Free Clinic hosted its annual Evening of Gratitude at Carson Park. With delicious food sponsored by Marshfield Clinic, the evening was a joyful celebration of the clinic volunteers, Board of Director Volunteers and Staff who make our mission possible.

This year, we were honored to welcome 70 attendees, a vibrant mix of dedicated individuals who give their time, energy, and compassion to support our clinic and the community we serve. The event was filled with laughter, connection, and appreciation, reminding us of the power behind service and the strength in our collective impact.

Over the past year, our volunteers contributed an incredible 6,418 hours of service, with 141 active volunteers supporting everything from patient care to administrative tasks. Thanks to their dedication, the clinic was able to provide 4,743 patient visits, ensuring that individuals in our community received the care they needed, regardless of their circumstances.

Their commitment is the heartbeat of our clinic, and this evening was a small token of our immense gratitude.

As we look ahead, we invite everyone to continue being part of this meaningful work. Whether you're a longtime volunteer or someone curious about getting involved, there's always room at the table and always a reason to celebrate.



Brett St. Aubin, Volunteer Board of Directors



David Blakeley, Volunteer Maintenance

NEW STAFF



Melissa G.
Reception Manager



Jackie S.
Hispanic Case Manager



Ashley D., NP
Nurse Practitioner



Treya N., NP
Nurse Practitioner



Sheree B.
Dental Manager



Ashley L.
Lab Coordinator



Karla M
Case Manager

CLINIC STAFF

Wendy Andre
Executive Director

Lori Whitis, MD
Volunteer Medical Director

Robin Kranig, RN, MSN
Director of Clinical Services

Sheree Blum
Dental Manager

Sean Tarpenning, DDS
Volunteer Dental Director

Tim Sexton, PharmD
Dispensary Manager

Karla Trejo Morales
Case & Volunteer Manager

Nancy Nowak
Fiscal Manager

Maddie Pierce, MBA
Office Coordinator

Ken Adler, MD
Dispensary Assistant

Dana Bessen, APNP
Nurse Practitioner

Treya Nelson, NP
Nurse Practitioner

Ashley Davis, NP
Nurse Practitioner

Ashley L.
Lab Coordinator

Nicole Wolfe, RN
Clinic Assistant

Benjamin Gutschow, DDS
Dentist

Kim Truog, RDH
Dental Hygienist

Melissa Grulke
Reception Manager

Rachel Fettes
Interpreter

Kay Granger
Dental Assistant

Jackie Sanchez
Hispanic Case Manager

Norma Esparza
Dental Assistant

Bailee Higgins
Dental Assistant

WOMEN'S HEALTH NIGHT

Women's Health clinics are held four times a year and include cancer screenings in collaboration with our partner, Marshfield Clinic, which provides a mobile mammography unit. These clinics also offer a baseline health analysis, including mental health, and a survey to assess safety in participants' lived environments.

At each quarterly clinic, we aim to improve women's health in three key areas: Breast and cervical cancer screenings, comprehensive health assessments - which include free medications, medical equipment, and hygiene supplies- and provide a connection to community resources to help improve social determinants of health for impoverished women

Research shows that low income individuals have a 10% increased risk of breast cancer and a 13% increased risk of all-cause mortality.

We hosted a Women's Health Night on July 16, where we served 9 women for mammograms and 14 for Pap and pelvic exams. Our next Women's Health Night is scheduled for **November 19th**. These events are especially meaningful, as many participants have never had a mammogram or Pap test before.

By offering invaluable preventive and early detection services, the clinic helps mitigate potential severe health issues. As a free and charitable clinic, we also provide women with peace of mind and the reassurance that a safety net is available should they need it.

