



The Community Health Clinic

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CHC

SPRING/SUMMER 2023

NEW CLINIC BUILDING UPDATE



With the shell of the building largely completed last fall, much progress has been made on the interior of our new facility over the winter. Mechanicals, sheet rock, flooring, and trim carpentry are largely complete on the first and second floors. On the lower-level walkout basement, interior work is underway on the community education room, demonstration kitchen for our dietitians' programs, restrooms, and the staff locker room. Less than half of the full basement will be finished; the balance will be reserved for future needs in the years to come.

Work on the interior of the building should be completed by early summer and will leave us in good shape to complete paving, landscaping, furnish the spaces, and move in before fall. We look forward to welcoming the community to our Open House & 10th Anniversary celebration on September 9, 2023, more details to follow.

“*The new facility will allow us to fulfill our mission and help improve the quality of life for those with rare genetic conditions through patient care, education, and research. Having the first clinic building of our own will allow us to enhance our services to better meet the needs of a growing community.*”

SAVE THE DATE

**CHC Open House &
10th Anniversary Celebration**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Special thanks go to Freedom Builders, our general contractor, and the subcontractors on this project. We appreciate their expertise and quality work! We are also most grateful for those who have contributed labor and materials to help keep the project on schedule and on budget. Many hands have come together to make the first facility of our own possible. We'd like to again express our gratitude to all those who contributed to the capital campaign. Over the last 15 months, donations from both inside and outside our community

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ABOUT THE COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC

The Mission of the Community Health Clinic (CHC) is to provide excellent and affordable medical care consistent with the needs of the Amish, Mennonite and other rural northern Indiana communities with a focus on individuals and families with special health care needs. The CHC embraces, incorporates and promotes participation in research to advance medical knowledge and improve care.



**The Community
Health Clinic**

The CHC was founded in a unique collaboration with the local community in 2008. Careful planning and community support allowed us to begin to see patients in 2013, offering high quality care at a greatly reduced cost to our families. We are open to the public, with a particular focus on serving the Plain communities. Currently, more than three fourths of our patients are from the Amish and Mennonite churches. Much of our annual budget comes from donations and fundraisers.

Over the last nine plus years, we have served over 5,100 patients, both children and adults, with rare genetic and metabolic disorders. Most of our patient families come from Indiana and Michigan, but we have served both Plain and non-Plain families from 15 different states and several foreign countries. Our clinic provides medical management of complex diseases and offers genetic counseling, dietary management, and newborn screening. We have very good working relationships with regional hospitals and health systems, routinely working with them to provide additional services to our patients in need. Our patient population continues to grow, both near our clinic and in outlying communities. Throughout the year, we now see patients in five outreach clinic locations, as far north as Clare, Michigan and south to Paoli, Indiana.

The CHC has made significant progress building an understanding of the community's rare disease burden. With families as partners, the clinic has been able to provide earlier diagnoses, better treatments, and improved outcomes. This has resulted in a rapidly expanding patient base and a growing understanding that there are still many families yet to be identified who would benefit from our services. The disorders that affect the Plain communities are not unique to them; what we learn through research and care of our patients benefits all. Education is a critical part of our mission for families and clinicians. We collaborate with physicians and medical researchers across the country and around the globe to share our expertise, learn from others, and help ensure a better future for all those affected by rare disorders.

After more than 8,600 patient visits, our clinic has developed expertise providing diagnoses and high-quality, affordable care for more than 250 rare conditions. Early diagnoses result in greatly improved health outcomes and significant financial savings for families and the broader community. The Community Health Clinic's commitment is firmly rooted in the region and what we learn together with patient families has truly global impact. We are grateful for the community's advocacy and support, and truly blessed to do this privileged work.



**Zineb Ammous,
MD, FACMG
(Dr. Z)**
Clinical Geneticist
and Medical Director



**Jared Beasley,
MBA, RN**
Executive Director

NEW CLINIC BUILDING UPDATE

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have allowed us to achieve 93.9% of our \$4.06 million goal. Just 6.1%, \$248,103, remains to complete construction of our new clinic!

If you have any questions about the campaign, or might like to help, please contact Blake Andres, Director of Development and Planning at bandres@indianachc.org or office: 260-593-0108, mobile: 440-463-9912.



Building elevation, rendering



Community Education Room



Second floor looking south

Main floor rendering



PROJECT GOAL:
\$4.06 MILLION

REMAINING
FUNDRAISING:
\$248,103

93.9%
Donations
& Pledges:

\$3,811,897

Special Thanks to our Building Campaign Contributors

December 2021 through February 2023

\$100,000 & ABOVE

Anonymous (4)
Community Foundation of Elkhart County

\$10,000 - \$99,999

Anonymous (12)
Bontrager Family Foundation
Farmers State Bank
LaGrange County Community Foundation
Rob & Stephanie Myers

\$1,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous (32)
Anabaptist Foundation
Blake & Karla Andres
Jared & Karla Beasley
Bright Star Realty & Auctions LLC
Donald R. & Janet W. Daut
Graber Steel & Fabrication LLC
The Harvest to Share, Inc.

UP TO \$999

Anonymous (62)
Lyle & Martha Beechy
Robert & Lea Anne Einterz
Brandon Esh
Phillip & Thelma Martin
Marvin & Joanna Schmucker
Razor Sharp Tooling
Gary & Julie Troyer



Gravin's Story

It is hard to believe that we have been with the CHC almost a year. We will remember our first appointment for Gravin. We felt anxious and did not know what to expect. When we got there, everyone wanted to meet us and help us. So many friendly nurses and desk ladies.

First they helped us get Gravin on a good diet as he was underweight. Then, they helped get his diagnosis which was down syndrome. That first visit we got lots of good information about down syndrome and also what we could expect as he grows.

Since then, whenever we have questions they are always ready to help. Also, this winter if he got sick, we knew who to ask for help. We are very thankful that we have the CHC to go to. We appreciate everyone for the hard work they do for us.

2023 NAPPANEE CHC Benefit Auction

FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2023 | 4:30 PM

Claywood Event Center
13920 N 1100 W, Nappanee, IN 46550

Lots of amazing auction items, food and bake sale goods!



CHC's Case Management Services

Pam Deetz
Case Management Coordinator

Imagine that you are a parent of a child with complex medical needs. In addition to coming to our genetics clinic, your child also sees numerous specialties such as neurology, cardiology, and ophthalmology. Your child also has developmental delays, and is in need of speech, occupational and physical therapies, as well as special equipment such as a wheelchair and a bath seat. Oh, and your child needs an Echo and a Video EEG. Overwhelming?? Managing all of these issues can be, especially if you have no idea where to start looking for what your child needs.

Helping in such a situation is the job of a case manager. A case manager can help you locate resources, apply for financial assistance, schedule tests, and coordinate appointments. Whether you live in Elkhart

and LaGrange counties, geographically close to the CHC, or live in one of our outreach areas such as Michigan or southern Indiana, we can help with the legwork of finding the outside care and resources that you need.

Your child's needs may change over time too, and you may find that new issues arise. As your child reaches adulthood, he/she may need to transfer from pediatric providers to those who work with adults. As a parent, you may need to grapple with how much independence your child is capable of, and what the future will look like for your child. A case manager can help during this transition by providing information about new providers and programs for adults, and helping you understand the need for and the process of obtaining legal guardianship.

Case management is not just for children, but can be helpful to adults with healthcare needs as well. Finding specialists, scheduling appointments and tests, communicating with your workplace about your needs, and finding resources for your specific condition are just some of the issues that a case manager can assist you with.

At the CHC, we are constantly building a network of people, providers, and organizations that can provide services for you and your family. Our goal is to listen to you, work with you, and support you on this journey. If you have a question, or are looking for information, call the clinic and ask for a case manager. We might not have the answer right away, but will be happy to help you look for it!

CLINIC NEWS & UPDATES

CLINIC NEWS

Welcome Michael P. Dick, M.D., F.A.A.P.



Dr. Dick was raised in Southern Indiana and returned there after serving in the US Army to finish the pre-med education he started while he was enlisted. After graduating from

Indiana University School of Medicine, he completed his training in pediatrics and infectious diseases at the University of Florida College of Medicine. He has had a lifelong commitment to teaching.

Dr. Dick has enjoyed a variety of practice situations since then, treating his patients and staff like family members. He has an informal approach, when appropriate, that makes children and teenagers approachable and comfortable. It is important to him to carefully answer questions and address parental concerns as well as foster a team approach between all caregivers and families.

He enjoys hiking, long-distance cycling and is rarely seen without one of his dogs. His wife, Terach, is a nurse and enjoys baking and a variety of other hobbies. He has four children of his own.

Welcome Dee



Dee Carmichael grew up in North Liberty, Indiana and currently resides in Plymouth. After graduating from Purdue University, she has worked in both the inpatient

and outpatient hospital setting, but much of her career has been working in dialysis. While working in dialysis, she appreciated the ability to get to know patients and help them with their challenging diets. While she is new to metabolic nutrition, she is excited to be a part of the CHC team and looks forward to getting to know and help patients and their families in this area of nutrition.

She is a very proud mom of three boys and enjoys reading, learning new things, and traveling in her spare time.

Welcome Marissa



Marissa Testa is one of our new metabolic dietitians working remotely at the CHC Clinic. Marissa has been a pediatric dietitian for the past 10 years and started her

career at Nationwide Children's Hospital in metabolics. After a year and a half in genetics, she transitioned to starting the Complex Healthcare Clinic encompassing the Feeding Clinic, Cerebral Palsy Clinic and Tube Feed Clinic caring for over 1,000 patients seeking primary care each year. Her passion is enteral nutrition, home-blended formulas and patient education making every family feel that they can feed and grow their children regardless of medical diagnosis.

Marissa lives in Columbus, Ohio with her husband, Michael, and also homeschools her three children, Giana (8) Leo (5) and Liza (4). She enjoys cooking, baking, hiking, attempting handicrafts with small children, and food in general. She will very willingly accept any recipes you are willing to share.

Welcome Stephanie



Stephanie McNamara is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) with more than 10 years of experience. As an FNP she enjoys taking care of people of all ages. She

has professional experience in emergency medicine, urgent care, family practice, and telemedicine. What she loves most about being a healthcare provider is getting to know people and learning how to meet their needs. She is excited to be joining the Community Health Clinic where she can combine her experience with new learning to continue to meet the needs of patients, their families, and our community.

When Stephanie is not working, she stays quite busy with her husband and their 3 children who are active in 4H, gymnastics, basketball, and hunting. Her most enjoyable personal hobby is running with her dog, a nearly 100# German Shepherd, and listening to music. She also enjoys camping with her family, travel, and spending time with friends and family.

Welcome Stacey



Stacey Gretz moved to Indiana in 2021 from Wisconsin. She currently resides in Kendallville with her fiancé, three children, one sassy dog and a mischievous cat. She also has one

son who is in the Marines and is currently stationed in Hawaii.

Prior to joining the Community Health Clinic, she worked at an oral surgery and neurology office. In her free time, she enjoys reading, doing puzzles, attending sporting events, traveling, and most of all spending time with her family and friends.

She's looking forward to getting to know all the wonderful patients here and learning more about the community.

Staff Recruitment

HEALTH CLINIC Physician Geneticist

The CHC is seeking a Physician Geneticist interested in treating children and adults with metabolic and genetic disorders.

Interested candidates should send his/her CV to Jared Beasley at jbeasley@indianachc.org

DENTAL CLINIC Dentist

The CDC is seeking a Full or Part-time Dentist interested in treating children and adults in an underserved rural community. This position offers the unique opportunity to work at a well-established, non-profit dental clinic with an experienced team who are passionate about serving their community.

Dental Hygienist

The CDC is seeking an experienced Dental Hygienist to join our team. This position includes full time pay and benefits with a four-day work week (Monday-Thursday).

Interested candidates should send his/her CV to Jared Beasley at jbeasley@indianachc.org.

Haystack Supper

On March 3rd, despite a winter storm warning, hundreds of community members came together in the cafeteria of the Harrison Christian School in Goshen, Indiana in support of the Community Health Clinic's mission. 940 dine-in and take-out meals were served that evening!



Jackie Conley of the CHC, Wayne & Joyce Brubacher

More than ten years ago, before the CHC saw its very first patient, Wayne and Joyce Brubacher recruited a group of volunteers to help organize this annual fundraiser. Each year the volunteer committee brings the community together in fellowship, with ample food, seemingly bottomless bowls of ice cream, and opportunities to share with one another.

A major focus of this annual gathering is to increase the awareness of the clinic's services; staff are present to answer questions, connect families, and, with the generosity of those supporting this benefit, provide no-cost genetic screening services for interested community members. Over the history of the Haystack Benefit, hundreds of families have taken advantage of the screenings leading to earlier diagnoses, treatment, and improved quality of life for those affected by rare disease.

Wayne and Joyce were early advocates for the development of the Community Health Clinic. Wayne, a founding director, served on the CHC board for many years. More recently, Wayne has been serving on CHC's Building Committee, providing invaluable construction expertise for our new clinic building. We're most grateful for Wayne and Joyce's commitment, and for all those community members who join us each year at the Haystack Supper!

DENTAL CLINIC HAPPENINGS

Welcome Natalie, Dr. Blough, Ally



Natalie has had a background in dentistry for over 40 years, and it's truly what she loves! She is a certified dental assistant, working chairside for 20 years. The last 20 years was spent at the front desk,

then as Office Manager in a private practice. Natalie is thrilled to be part of the dental team here at The Community Dental Clinic.

Natalie lives in LaGrange with her husband Scott. She enjoys walking their two pups and spending time with their adult children and grandchildren!



Dr. Brian Blough is a native of Goshen Indiana and has been practicing general dentistry for 30 years. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University and earned his dental

degree from Indiana University. After practicing in Northern Indiana for several years, Dr. Blough moved and spent part of his career in the sunny state of North Carolina. Dr. Blough joined the Community Dental Clinic team in early 2023 and provides a wide array of general dentistry services to his patients. He has two adult children, Emily and Andrew who live in Carmel. In his spare time, Dr. Blough likes to spend time with his family and travel. He is also a certified advanced open water scuba diver.



Allyson "Ally" Conley was born in LaGrange, IN and currently resides in Rome City with her significant other, Jay. Ally attended Lakeland High School before coming to the Community Dental

Clinic. Ally has also been a volunteer over at the Community Health Clinic. Ally is very understanding of the mission, as well as, the community the CDC serves.

Ally has 1 dog and 4 cats. In her spare time you will find Ally spending time with her family and friends, or with animals. Ally's most proud moment was when she became an aunt.



INTERN Lauryn Riegsecker

I have lived in Shipshewana my entire life, and I graduated from Westview High School

in 2019. I then went on to play collegiate tennis at Grace College, where I received my bachelor's degree in Health Science with a Pre-PA concentration in December of 2022. I am now in the process of applying to physician assistant school, which will begin in 2024.

In my free time, I love to run, play tennis, and play pickleball. I am excited to spend my gap year working at the CHC, where I am looking forward to expanding my knowledge of genetics, patient care, and research.



The Community Dental Clinic receives TITLE V funding from the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH). The grant funds are used to focus on implementing services for children

with and without special healthcare needs. The resources we have received have been used to provide oral health exams, both preventative and treatment based, for families who qualify. Funding has also been used for staff training related to services offered and for community education. We appreciate the relationship we have with ISDH and their continued support. Please give the dental clinic a call at 260-768-7918 and ask for Natalie Covell, our Office Manager, for more information.

Written by:

Deborah Jurgielewicz, Operations Director, CHC Inc.

OUTREACH CLINICS

In addition to seeing patients in our main facility in Topeka, CHC offers periodic outreach clinics in outlying communities in Indiana including Fort Wayne, Berne, Paoli and also Clare, Michigan. The next scheduled outreach clinics include:

Fort Wayne, IN

2nd Wednesday of each month

Berne, IN

May 19th

Paoli, IN

Call CHC for dates.

Clare, MI

Call CHC for dates.

For other dates, appointment availability and additional information including whether an outreach clinic is appropriate for you, please contact us at 260-593-0108.



The Community Health Clinic

315 Lehman Ave., Suite C
PO Box 9
Topeka, IN 46571

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Cleveland, OH
Permit No. 2280

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COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This board governs The Community Health Clinic and the Community Dental Clinic.

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