

FALL/WINTER 2020

WECARE CLINIC MESSENGER



WeCare Clinic
Medical Care for Special Needs

WeCare Clinic – Medical Care for Special Needs, 775 Pembroke Fairview Road,
Pembroke, KY 42666
Phone: 270-962-7383 Fax: 270-962-7385

WeCare Clinic is Opening December 2020!

WeCare Clinic staff will begin seeing patients in December 2020. We must learn to walk before we run, so the pace of the clinic will be slower in the beginning. **Call us to schedule an appointment.**

The mission of WeCare Clinic – Medical Care for Special Needs is to improve the quality of life for families with genetic disorders through medical care, education, and research. WeCare Clinic is organized on a non-profit basis to provide a diagnostic and out-patient medical care facility for children and adults with genetic disease in the Amish, Mennonite, and English communities of central and western Kentucky and surrounding areas.

A genetic clinic in western Kentucky has been the vision of a group of Anabaptist leaders for a decade. The first public meeting to discuss this vision occurred in March 2009 in Glasgow, Kentucky with over 100 members of Anabaptist communities attending a day-long meeting. Numerous individuals have worked tirelessly to establish WeCare Clinic.

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WeCare Clinic is Opening December 2020! (cont.)

Based on the vastly improved outcomes, and greatly reduced medical costs associated with the care of many patients through genetic clinics, Dr. Morton shared that he is convinced that children and adults suffering from genetic diseases in most communities, especially Plain Communities, benefit from the establishment of genetic clinics. According to physicians and multiple board of directors at the other genetic clinics, WeCare must maintain a focus of specialized, genetic care. There are multiple quick-care, primary care offices throughout Kentucky, but there are no genetic clinics that care for special children and adults. According to Dr. Holmes Morton, "A genetic clinic is of great community need in Kentucky." The board remains committed to providing specialized care for children and adults with genetic disease in the Amish, Mennonite, and English communities of Kentucky and surrounding states. **If you are interested in becoming a patient of WeCare Clinic, call 270-962-7383 or write us to request new patient forms.**

Employee Spotlight - Marlene Schmucker, RN, BSN

I'm Marlene Schmucker, RN, BSN nurse leader at WeCare. I've been working at the clinic since the fall of 2018. I was born and raised in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Most of my nursing experience was in Virginia. I worked for 11 years on the Pediatric unit of a community hospital. I met and married my husband Martin in 2009 and moved to Franklin, Kentucky. I was so thankful for my nursing experience when our first child was born with birth defects and spent five months in the NICU at Vanderbilt followed by numerous hospital stays over the next three years. Our daughter is now a happy, healthy 8-year old, and I'm thankful for the experience of having been on the other side of the bed, so to speak, as I care for patients and their families and empathize with the unique feelings and challenges that come with having a child with special needs. My husband and I now have two children (8 yrs and 7 yrs). After the children were both in school, my husband and I decided it was time for me to return to work as a nurse part time.



My favorite part about my job at WeCare Clinic is home visits to see patients. I enjoy seeing patients in their own home, interacting with their parents and siblings and reporting back to their physician or midwife to plan further treatment or stay the course or draw blood to send for testing. We have also met with some families to offer support and advice on various medical issues. Another service I can provide is drawing your blood (parents or parents-to-be) to send to a genetic lab to check for carrier status of a specific genetic disorder or a list of disorders common in the Plain communities. I look forward to meeting more of you. If there's anything I can do to help or if you have questions, feel free to call the clinic or send a note in the mail and I will set up a time to come see you or make an appointment for you to be seen at the clinic by a provider.

WeCare Clinic Welcomes Jolene Schmucker, APRN as Full-time Nurse Practitioner

I am 33 years old, the youngest of six children, and was born and raised in Franklin, KY. I have two children ages 3 and 10. We love to travel and spend time with our family and friends. My oldest child was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) when he was 3 years old. In the last seven years, we have been through many victories and tears. We experienced many doctor visits, therapists, and medication changes. It is my heartfelt desire to help other families that are struggling for answers, support, and family centered medical care.



I received my Bachelor's of Science degree in nursing at Western Kentucky University in 2014 and started my nursing career at Med Center Health in a critical care unit for adults where I worked for almost two years. I spent the last four years working in an emergency department where I became inspired to return back to school to become a nurse practitioner in order to advocate and help my patients and their families better. I graduated in 2020 from Walden University as a Family Nurse Practitioner. After joining WeCare Clinic, I spent two weeks at The Clinic for Special Children in Strasburg, PA for training.

Since joining WeCare Clinic, I have been amazed at all the doors that God has opened for us. I am excited to help make a difference and believe that this is a mission that will not only help this generation, but generations to come. My journey thus far can best be described in this quote by Mahatma Gandhi: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

WeCare Clinic Welcomes Karuna Reddy, MD as Part-time Medical Director



Dr. Reddy completed a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Amravati University in Amravati, India. She completed her internship and medical residency at the University of Louisville Glasgow/Barren County Family Medicine Program. Dr. Reddy also completed an Internal Medicine Residency through Drexel University College of Medicine at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. She is board certified in Internal Medicine.

Dr. Reddy is married and her husband Chandrasekhar Reddy works at GM as Systems Engineer at Corvette Plant. They have two children, 19 year old son who is a sophomore at Vanderbilt University and daughter who is in middle school. Dr. Reddy enjoys spending time with family and traveling.



WeCare Clinic

Medical Care for Special Needs

WECARE STAFF:

- Matthew L. Hunt, EdD
Interim Executive Director
- Karuna Reddy, MD
Medical Director
- Jolene Schmucker, APRN
Nurse Practitioner
- Marlene Schmucker, RN, BSN
Registered Nurse

WECARE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Mark Hoover
- Matthew L. Hunt, Ed.D.
- Susan Jones, PhD, RN
- Thomas M. Morgan, MD, FACMG
- Jerry Martin
- Marcus Nolt (Secretary)
Ph: (270) 886-6795
- Luke Shirk (Treasurer)
Ph: (270) 885-8210
- John Troyer
- Harvey Zimmerman (Chair)
Ph: (270) 475-4191
- Lawrence Z. Zimmerman (Vice-Chair)
Ph: (270) 886-5254

“The specialized tests and care required by the patients would become too expensive if the patient had to pay the bill in full. The goal of these clinics is to have funds on hand to offset these costs. If a book were written describing details of the thousands of patients seen by these clinics, it would be a huge volume.”

- Ervin Bontrager

“Hope cannot shield us from suffering in this life. Rather, hope is what allows us to endure suffering without losing our sense of joy. Hope is an expression of the kind of strength and courage that can only come from deep, and abiding love. Because being loved by someone gives us strength, while loving someone deeply gives us courage.”

- Kevin Strauss, MD

“Special children are not just interesting medical problems, subjects of grants and research. Nor should they be called burdens to their families and communities. They are children who need our help and if we allow them to, they will teach us to love.”

- Holmes Morton, MD

“I know all too well the experience of packing a lifeless child in an emergency room pleading for help. I am confident WeCare Clinic will provide the help needed for families with complex health conditions.”

- Matthew L. Hunt, EdD

Newborn Screening Research Project

The WeCare Clinic Board of Directors and Staff are committed to developing specialized testing and medical care to meet the needs of Amish and Mennonite families in Kentucky. In support of this commitment, WeCare Clinic is collaborating with researchers from Western Kentucky University to conduct a survey to learn more about the needs, experiences, and concerns regarding newborn screening. A questionnaire will be mailed to households throughout Kentucky in the coming weeks. Please be sure to complete the survey and return to the WeCare Clinic.

A Collaborative Effort with Midwives

The WeCare Clinic is committed to providing education to those we work with and serve. In support of this educational goal, we partnered with midwives in Christian and other KY and TN counties to hold the first educational program on September 29th. We used a participatory approach with the topic for the class selected by the midwives. Nurses and a medical resident from The Medical Center at Bowling Green, KY led the interactive discussion. Thirteen individuals (midwives, midwife helpers, nursing students and WeCare staff) attended the educational session from seven counties. An evaluation was conducted to learn how we could improve such classes and help identify additional topics to address in the future.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about WeCare Clinic, please call 270-962-7383 or 270-202-6603. You can also write us at 775 Pembroke Fairview Road, Pembroke, KY 42266 or fax us 270-962-7385.

Please consider donating to WeCare Clinic as we strive to improve the quality of life for families with genetic conditions through medical care, education, and research. Due to the COVID-19 concerns, we were unable to hold our annual fundraisers as normal in 2020. We have received sufficient funds for 2020 and we are grateful for the support we have received during this challenging year, but more help is needed to fund the clinic in the upcoming year. Approximately 70%-75% of the clinic's annual operating expenses will be covered by donations, contributions, and grants. The commitment of donors to support and sustain a clinic for special children and adults is a long term commitment. Please consider helping us reach our fundraising goal of \$650,000 for the operating expenses in 2021.

Thank you for making a donation to WeCare Clinic.

Make your check payable to: WeCare Clinic

Mail to: WeCare Clinic, 775 Pembroke Fairview Road, Pembroke, KY 42266

Donation Made By: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Date: _____ Check # _____ Amount: _____

If you do not wish to send donations directly to WeCare Clinic, anonymous contributions may be made through the Anabaptist Foundation. Make your check payable to Anabaptist Foundation with WeCare Clinic Fund on the memo line.

Mail to: Anabaptist Foundation, 55 Whisper Creek Drive, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

Check here if you wish to receive a tax-deductible receipt at the end of the year.

