

WINTER/SPRING 2021

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 Patient Encounters Are Increasing!

The WeCare Clinic staff and Board of Directors would like to share some exciting news with you. We officially opened the clinic in December 2020, and we have had the privilege of providing care for patients in Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina.

We had 17 patient encounters in December, 35 patient encounters in January, 44 patient encounters in February, and 62 patient encounters in March. We are providing care for patients with Nephrocerebellar Syndrome (Yoder Dystonia), Troyer Syndrome, Seizure Disorders, Congenital Ear Malformation, Familial Periodic Fever Syndrome, Prothrombin Thrombophilia, Hereditary Hemochromatosis, Maple Syrup Urine Disease without liver transplant, Maple Syrup Urine Disease with liver transplant, Congenital Nephrotic Syndrome, Pretzel Syndrome, Dextrocardia, Propionic Acidemia, GRIN2B-related neurodevelopment disorder, Glutaric Acidemia Type III (GA3), and several patients are awaiting a diagnosis.

Continued on Page 2....

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

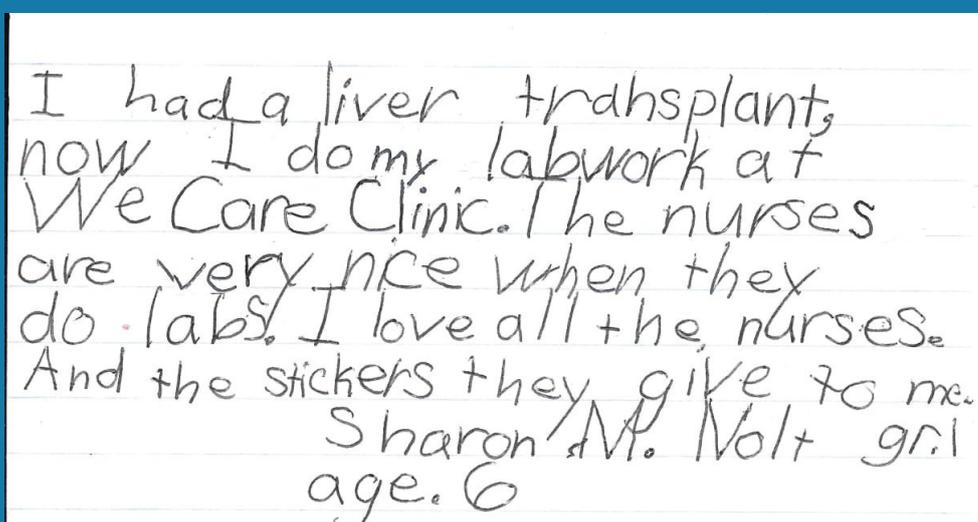
- WeCare Clinic Patient Encounters Are Increasing!
- Patient Focus
- The Nolt's Family Story
- WeCare Clinic Welcomes New Staff
- Upcoming Events
- Clinic Staff and Board of Directors
- WeCare Clinic Launches a Website
- Multiple Ways to Support WeCare Clinic
- The Yoder's Family Story
- Newborn Screening Research Project Update
- Contact Us

WeCare Clinic Patient Encounters Are Increasing (cont.)

It is evident to the staff and Board of Directors a specialized genetic clinic is needed in Kentucky. In addition to providing medical care, our staff are busy assisting with research projects and planning educational events. Our compassionate and knowledgeable staff stand ready to provide care for your family. *If you are interested in becoming a patient of WeCare Clinic, call 270-962-7383 or write us to request new patient forms.*

Patient Focus: Sharon M. Nolt

We are so thankful to be able to provide care for patients of all ages. Below is a note from Sharon M. Nolt. Sharon's note put a smile on all of our faces.



I had a liver transplant,
now I do my labwork at
We Care Clinic. The nurses
are very nice when they
do labs. I love all the nurses.
And the stickers they give to me.
Sharon M. Nolt gr.1
age. 6

The Nolt's Family Story

"The WeCare Clinic staff has been a great blessing to us these past winter months. They are so willing to help out and they don't make you feel like a burden, even if they need to come out and do a COVID-19 test on a Sunday morning so that the results are back in time for a scheduled procedure. And they are willing to adjust their schedule to do lab work, so the child doesn't miss school. With their help, our children have received treatment that has kept them out of the hospital. It has reduced our stress level of caring for special needs. When one of the staff calls and learns that a child is not doing well they offer to stop by and check the child before heading home. And they take time to visit making them more like family and friends, and not just doctors and nurses. We look forward to seeing WeCare Clinic continuing to grow and sharing their care! God Bless."

- Marcus and Mary Louise Nolt

WeCare Clinic Welcomes Gregory D. Mock, MD as Full-time Medical Director/Physician



The Board of Directors are happy to announce the hiring of Dr. Mock to serve as the full-time Medical Director and Physician. Dr. Mock was raised in Pennsylvania where he also completed his education at the University of Pittsburg at Johnstown, Thomas Jefferson University, and Temple University. He has experience in providing care for patients in a variety of medical settings and in multiple states. He worked alongside Dr. Holmes Morton while he and his family lived in Pennsylvania. His passion for working with Plain Communities and his desire to serve others are compatible with the mission of WeCare Clinic to improve the quality of life for families with genetic disorders. Dr. Mock will begin his service with WeCare Clinic in the coming weeks.

WeCare Clinic Welcomes Renee J. Spivey, RN as Full-time Registered Nurse

I am 35 years old, the youngest of a large family, and I was born in Michigan. I lost my father to cancer at age 10 and when I was 13 years old, I moved to Bowling Green, KY with my mother and stepfather. I graduated Western Kentucky University with my ADN and started my career as a RN working in Oncology, serving patients with cancer and end of life care. This was dear to my heart as I was just a young child and watched my father suffer so.



As my family grew, I settled down in Franklin, KY where I currently live. I have worked at the local hospital in Franklin for the past 12 years. I have worked as a Med Surg Nurse, Emergency Room nurse, Employee Health Nurse, Surgery Nurse, Community Outreach, Health and Wellness Nurse. I have been afforded the opportunity to sit on our Chamber Board and Serve as our local Chamber President. I love being a nurse and caring for my patients, but my first love would be my wonderful family.

I am blessed to be a mother of four amazing children, 2 boys and 2 girls ranging from 1-22 years of age. My oldest son has been away from home for 2 years now serving his country in The United States Air Force in Japan.

Continued on Page 4....

WeCare Clinic Welcomes Renee J. Spivey, RN as Full-time Registered Nurse (cont.)

My Second oldest will join his brother's career choice and leave for basic training in June. The third oldest is 10 years old and she is my helper and loves to help others like I do. The youngest is our baby girl and she is just 1 years old and she is the greatest joy of our family. My husband and I enjoy trips to the Mountains, as well as trips to the beach as long as we are all together.

Since joining WeCare Clinic, I have felt like God put me in this job for a reason. Each patient I see, each family I get to help is not only changing them but changing me and my family for the better. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to be the compassionate caring nurse that I am and help the families that we serve at WeCare.



Upcoming Events:

Fish Fry Fundraiser

Date: Friday, May 21, 2021

Time: 4:00 pm to 7:00pm

Location: Bluegrass Sales Stables, 205 Trenton Tress Shop Road, Trenton, KY 42286

Bluegrass Sales Stables Sale (Free Ice Cream Event) - WeCare Providing Food

Date: Saturday, June 19, 2021

Time: 6:00am to 4:00pm

Location: Bluegrass Sales Stables, 205 Tress Shop Road, Trenton, KY 42286

Family Genetics Disease Day

Date: Saturday, September 18, 2021

Time: 8:30am-4:30pm

Location: WeCare Clinic, 775 Pembroke Fairview Road, Pembroke, KY 42266

Fairview Fundraiser Auction

Date: Friday, October 1, 2021 and Saturday, October 2, 2021

Time: To Be Announced

Location: Bluegrass Sales Stables, 205 Trenton Tress Shop Road, Trenton, KY 42286



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
- Renee Spivey, RN
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

WeCare Clinic Launches Website

To learn more about WeCare Clinic, our services, upcoming events, and latest news, please visit:

www.wecareforspecialneeds.org

Multiple Ways to Support WeCare Clinic

If you would like host a fundraiser auction in your community, please call 270-962-7383 or 270-202-6603.

If you are a customer of United Southern Bank, you can set up monthly donation transfers to the clinic.

You can donate electronically on our website at www.wecareforspecialneeds.org

If you shop at Kroger, you can help support WeCare Clinic. The Kroger Community Rewards Program will donate a proceed of each purchase you make to the clinic. Simply visit customer service at Kroger and have them add WeCare Clinic to your Kroger card by searching for We Care Clinic - Medical Care for Special Needs either by name or RJ996I.

If you shop on Amazon, you can support WeCare Clinic. The AmazonSmile Reward Program will donate a proceed of each purchase you make to the clinic. Simply visit AmazonSmile to link your account to WeCare Clinic.

The Yoder's Family Story

"When our first child was born, we noticed something was not quite right. She wanted to latch her tongue to top of her mouth when feeding, which as first-time parents, we thought maybe its ok, she might outgrow it. We had to learn to get on top of her tongue to feed. Then feeding went well. Then when she was 8 weeks old, she quit gaining weight and we thought maybe it's ok. She might be a slow growing baby. Then, at 10 weeks old she started having seizures, which as first-time parents we did not know what is happening. But she came back to herself. But she kept having more seizures. So, we took her to our local hospital and was transferred to Kosair Children's Hospital and put on a ventilator and sedated and told she has pneumonia and had to have all kinds of tests. They took a lot of blood from our anemic baby and yet we had no answers, except for the genetics test. They did find it is a genetic disorder but not what kind of disorder. She was in the hospital for 6 ½ weeks before she died there at 5 months and 28 days. We still did not have an answer to her sickness.

Then we had a normal child. Then our third baby was much the same as our first one except he was 7 months old before he had a seizure and then another one at 21 months old. Then we knew he was not like a normal child, but we did not want to put him through all those tests and no answers, and he is still with us at 11 years old. He still has some seizures but not uncontrollable. Then we had 2 normal children and then we had another one that we saw right at birth that he is not like the normal ones. He had the same feeding problems but fed good when on top of his tongue. Then at 10 weeks old he started having around 12 seizures a day. So, we took him to the hospital and got his seizures under control. The doctor asked about a genetic test and we told them about our first one. Then they decided not to do a genetic test since they did not find any answers for our first baby. But we told them that we heard about a clinic in PA that does genetic tests and can find real answers so it was decided if he gets able to make the trip to go to PA and see what they can find but he never did come back to his normal self that we felt like he is able to make that long trip. He died at 6 months and 25 days.

Then we had a stillborn that had other complications. Finally, we were able to take our unhealthy child that never talks or walks to the Clinic for Special Children in PA. We met Dr. Strauss and Dr. Carson and the friendly nurses. We were truly amazed and comfortable and anxious parents to get a true answer. They asked some questions and did a genetics test and called us 2 days later with real answers. They told us that he has Nephrocerebellar syndrome (NCS). Now when he gets sick, we know better where we are at and what to watch for and doctors know much more about the NCS children and the kinds of medications they need. I cannot put it in words how much these genetic doctors can help. They can help a lot more than these big hospitals if they know the genetic disorder and our 3 children would not have had to go through all those tests and heartbreaking stress in the hospital every day.

Continued on Page 6....

The Yoder's Family Story (cont.)

Our last child never was in the hospital as she was tested as soon as she was born, and the test came back positive. Then we took her to the WeCare Clinic and there we met Jolene Schmucker and Renee Spivey. Knowing what to look for at the NCS children to comfort them and what kind of medications they need to keep our baby comfortable until she died at 11 months old. Again, I cannot put in words how much more of a comfort they were then going to these big hospitals, which are also friendly and good doctors, but don't have the knowledge on these children's genetics. Our last one was our most content one out of our two children with NCS that passed and was the most comfortable one we had with the help from our friends at WeCare Clinic and we cannot be thankful enough with God's guidance and help."

Newborn Screening Research Project Update

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 was mailed to Plain households throughout Kentucky. Please be sure to complete the survey and return to the WeCare Clinic by June 30, 2021. The research results will be shared in future newsletters.

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. We are grateful for the support we have received this year, but more help is needed to fund the clinic throughout 2021. 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.

