

WINTER/SPRING 2022

WECARE CLINIC MESSENGER



WeCare Clinic
Medical Care for Special Needs

WeCare Clinic – Medical Care for Special Needs, 775 Pembroke Fairview Road, Pembroke, KY 42266
Phone: 270-962-7383 Fax: 270-962-7385

Continuous Improvements

The clinic is growing by leaps and bounds and in December we welcomed a new staff member, Sierra. She will be helping at the front desk and working as an office assistant. She has already been a huge blessing to our clinic, and we don't know what we did without her. We also welcomed Erin, who is a metabolic registered dietitian, in March. Having a registered dietitian allows us to support our patient's dietary needs through our clinic instead of referring them out to other facilities. Forty-percent of these conditions can be managed through dietary changes, supplementation, or medication. These changes can be the difference between optimal health, disability or death.

A few of our staff went to Elk Horn, KY for an outreach clinic at the end of December where we were able to draw blood for carrier testing. We saw 17 patients and completed 11 Plain Insight Panels (PIP) to screen for carrier status. Out of this outreach clinic, we found 47 variants for which our patients were carriers. We were also able to diagnose six different genetic conditions. This was exciting for our clinic as we know that acting proactively instead of reactively is always beneficial to our patients and their families.

We held our second outreach clinic of this year on March 3rd in Smith's Grove, KY. We have been working closely with this community since the opening of our clinic to help diagnose several rare genetic conditions and provide care to these patients. We will be back for another outreach clinic in Smith's Grove on September 21st.

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Continuous Improvements (cont.)

We are continuing to work closely with local midwives and the Kentucky Newborn Screening Program to help assess newborns in the plain population for genetic conditions. It is through these close collaborations that we have already helped diagnose rare genetic diseases in more than five infants in the last few months.

As I reflect over the last year, I am thankful for all the doors that God has opened for our clinic and its families. It is our mission to advocate for each patient that we meet. Whether this is through doing our best to find answers through genetic testing, referring out to specialists, digging through research to find answers, or just listening to our patients. We will continue to strive to meet our patients' needs in 2022.

-Jolene Schmucker, APRN

What Are We Diagnosing at WeCare Clinic?

A Spotlight on Lynch Syndrome

In dealing with genetic illness, we usually envision the small children that have an inherited disorder which manifests with devastating consequence in the early years of development, but we have other disorders in our communities that manifest in the late teenage years and early adulthood. One such disorder is Lynch Syndrome.

Lynch Syndrome is a genetic disorder that is best known for causing an increase occurrence of colon and rectal cancer in young adults and in the past was felt to have no treatment except surgery and chemotherapy. Many individuals at risk for Lynch Syndrome don't want to get tested to see if they are affected but would rather wait to see if they develop cancer, feeling that there is nothing that could be done to change the prognosis. Advances have been made in the screening and treatment of Lynch Syndrome, which brings hope to those who carry this gene.

Lynch Syndrome is inherited in an autosomal dominant pattern, meaning that you only need one copy of that gene for the disease to manifest itself. If one parent carries this gene, then 50 percent of their children will be at risk for having this condition.

Lynch Syndrome is associated with more than just colon cancer. Lynch Syndrome has been associated with an increased risk of stomach, small intestine, liver, gallbladder, upper urinary tract, brain, skin, and prostate cancer. Women with Lynch Syndrome also have an increased risk of uterine, ovarian, and breast cancer. There are several genes associated with Lynch Syndrome (MLH1, MSH2, MSH6, PMS2 or EPCAM) with new genes being discovered. When a person has inherited one of these genes, it interferes with that person's ability to repair their DNA when an error occurs in replication. This inability to repair damaged DNA increases that individual's risk of developing cancer. Not all people with the gene mutation for Lynch Syndrome develop cancer.

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What Are We Diagnosing at WeCare Clinic?

A Spotlight on Lynch Syndrome (cont.)

The diagnosis is usually considered when a young adult develops colon or rectal cancer. There are criteria called the Amsterdam Clinical Criteria which can be applied to arrive at the diagnosis of Lynch Syndrome, though most of the time genetic testing is done to confirm this diagnosis. Once the diagnosis is made, it is recommended that other family members be screened. The current Amsterdam Criteria are called the Amsterdam II Criteria and can be remembered by the 3-2-1 rule (3 affected members, 2 generations, 1 under the age of 50). Further description is as follows:

- Three or more relatives on the same side of the family with histologically verified Lynch-associated cancers (colorectal cancer, cancer of the endometrium or small bowel, transitional cell carcinoma of the ureter or renal pelvis), one of whom is a first-degree relative of the other two and in whom familial adenomatous polyposis (another genetic cancer syndrome) has been excluded.
- Two generations with Lynch -associated cancers
- One or more cancers diagnosed before the age of 50 years.

Treatment for this condition is multiple screenings to catch a polyp or tumor before it progresses to cancer or to catch a small cancer early and undergo surgical removal. If the cancer is advanced, then chemotherapy with Leucovorin in combination with 5-Fluorouracil has been used as a palliative care treatment in patients with advanced colorectal cancer. Over the last several years we are beginning to see immunotherapy which has been used with success on advanced cancers and is now being studied for prevention of these cancers. Currently a study using a PD-1 antibody (Toripalimab) is being studied in this manner. Other immunotherapy studies that are currently ongoing are using bevacizumab, nivolumab, and attempting to develop a vaccine that can prevent the development of polyps or tumors. There are also medical centers that have developed a team of physicians with support members that specialize in the treatment of Lynch Syndrome. There is a lot of progress being seen with the treatment of this genetic syndrome, bringing HOPE to many.

- Dr. Gregory D. Mock
Medical Director

Employee Spotlight

Welcome New Staff

*ERIN TEAGUE
DIETITIAN*



Erin Teague is a clinical dietitian with more than 10 years of experience working with patients with complex medical backgrounds. She obtained her Master of Science degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Erin's passion is helping patients and their families improve their health through nutrition. In addition to working in the clinic setting, Erin has traveled the country teaching other dietitians how to perform a Nutrition Focused Physical Exam and diagnose malnutrition in their patients. Food has always been at the center of Erin's world, whose family was in the restaurant industry. When she isn't spending time with her family, you can find her trying a new recipe, baking or hiking in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park

*SIERRA JOHNSON
OFFICE ASSISTANT*



Pembroke native, Sierra Johnson, joined the clinic in December 2021. She has a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Management from Austin Peay State University. Sierra has over 10 years experience in various local Healthcare facilities, is a busy mom of girls, including twins with the genetic disorder PKU.

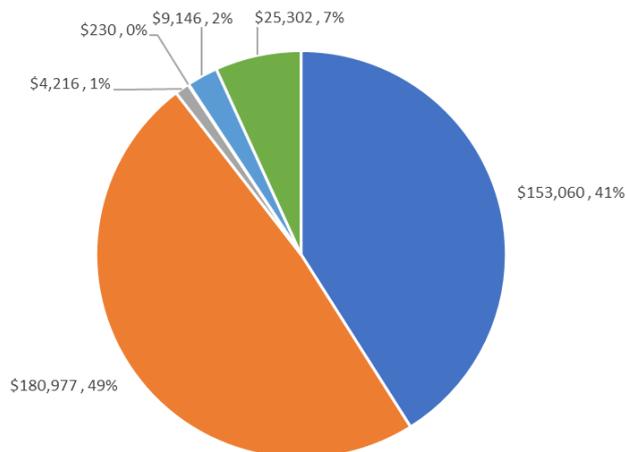
"I have really enjoyed my experience working at the clinic thus far and look forward to much more! I'm so grateful for the opportunity to work with such an amazing group of people and families of genetic disorders I can relate to."

2021 Financial Review

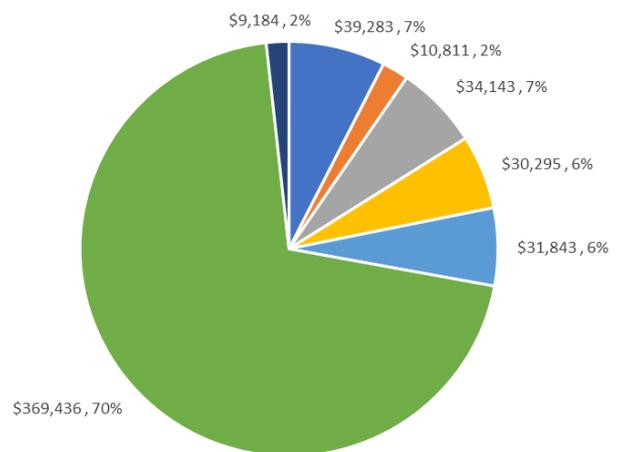
As indicated in the pie charts below, \$334,037.49 was received through fundraising efforts, \$4,215.84 was received from savings account interest, and \$34,678.38 was generated from clinic services for a total of \$372,931.71 in income. The clinic had a total of \$524,994.50 in total expenses for a net deficit of \$152,062.79. To balance the year out the deficit was pulled from the clinic's savings account. Due to hiring additional staff to meet the needs of our patients, the projected budget for 2022 is \$650,000. The board of directors remain positive about the future of WeCare Clinic due to not having any debt and the commitment of donors as the clinic strives to improve the quality of life for families with genetic disorders through medical care, education, and research.

We are thankful for the opportunity to meet so many families and lend a helping hand in the first year of operation. Please consider lending the clinic a helping hand in 2022 through a tax-deductible donation.

WeCare Clinic 2021 Income



WeCare Clinic 2021 Expenses



■ Fundraiser Contributions
 ■ Individual, Business Contributions
 ■ Interest-Savings, Short-term CD
 ■ Contract Services
 ■ Facilities and Equipment
 ■ Operations
 ■ Other Types of Expenses
■ Inventory Sales
 ■ Laboratory Fees
 ■ Program Service Fees (Clinic)
 ■ Payroll Expenses
 ■ Salaries & Wages
 ■ Travel and Meetings

3-6-5 Challenge

The 3-6-5 Challenge started in January 2022. We currently have 17 days of operation paid for and are in need of additional day sponsors. Day sponsors can pay the full amount at one time or over twelve months of the calendar year. The annual budget for WeCare Clinic is \$650,000, so that means it costs approximately \$1,780.82 per day to operate the clinic. In addition to our goal of establishing fundraising auctions across the state, the option of the 3-6-5 Challenge will allow individuals, businesses, and communities to select a special day of the year to sponsor operations at the clinic. If you have any questions about stepping up to the 3-6-5 Challenge, please call 270-202-6603.



Upcoming Events:

Fish Fry (Dine in or Drive Thru)

Date: Friday, April 1, 2022 & Friday, April 29, 2022

Time: 4:00pm-7:00pm

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

Family Genetic Disease Day

Date: September 24, 2022

Time: 9:00am - 1:00pm

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

WeCare Clinic Fundraiser Auction

Date: September 30, 2022 - October 1, 2022

Time: To Be Determined

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

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 at 270-962-7385.

The mission statement for WeCare Clinic is to improve the quality of life for families with genetic disorders through medical care, education, and research.

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. Approximately 80% 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.

Thank you for your support.



WECARE STAFF:

- Matthew L. Hunt, EdD
Executive Director
- Sierra Johnson, BS
Office Assistant
- Gregory D. Mock, MD
Medical Director
- Jolene Schmucker, APRN
Nurse Practitioner
- Marlene Schmucker, RN, BSN
Registered Nurse
- Renee Spivey, RN
Registered Nurse
- Erin Teague, RD
Dietitian

WECARE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Mark Hoover
- 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

Visit our Website

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

www.wecareforspecialneeds.org

THE RENOVATION CHALLENGE

We are quickly running out of clinic space and office space. We are embarking on a Renovation Challenge equivalent to \$60,000 to help expand the clinic. We have a goal of raising \$60,000 by August 1st. We hope to get volunteer labor and donated building materials for the project.

We currently have multiple staff sharing offices, we are running out of storage area for medical supplies, we do not have a break area for our staff, and do not have a meeting room for educational events for our families. We would like to add an educational room, breakroom, storage room, and six offices to the clinic.

By adding additional offices to the clinic, we will be able open up more clinic rooms for our patients and have a dedicated lab area. Adding more space to the clinic we will allow our staff to continue serving our 200+ active patients.

Will you please consider a donation to the Renovation Challenge? Donations can be made by mailing them directly to WeCare Clinic at 775 Pembroke Fairview Road, Pembroke, KY 42266 with Renovation Challenge in the memo line of the check.

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: _____

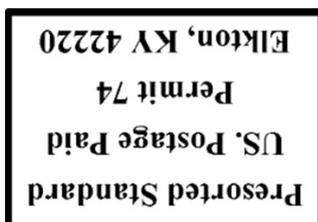
Date: _____ Check # _____ Amount: _____

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.

Check here if this is a 3-6-5 Challenge sponsorship. _____ Paid in full _____ Paid monthly



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