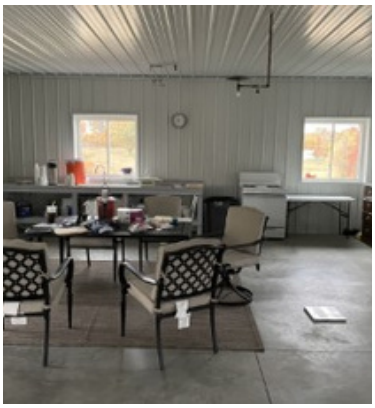
SUMMER 2026

WECARE CLINIC MESSENGER

WeCare Clinic
Medical Care for Special Needs

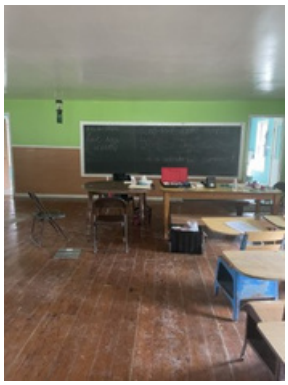
WeCare Clinic – Medical Care for Special Needs, 775 Pembroke Fairview Road, Pembroke, KY 42266
Phone: 270-962-7383 Fax: 270-962-7385 www.wecareforspecialneeds.org

Outreach Clinics Expanding to Tennessee



Over the past six years, WeCare Clinic staff have traveled across the state to conduct outreach clinics to meet the needs of patients with rare genetic conditions.

We want to thank our host families for opening up their homes, shops, and schools to allow our staff to provide care for families living in the area.



To provide care outside of Kentucky, Jolene Schmucker, APRN has been working diligently over the past year to obtain her Tennessee license. With this accomplishment, WeCare Clinic is now prepared to offer outreach clinics in Tennessee—something many of our patients have requested over the years.

If you are located in Tennessee with an available schoolhouse, fellowship hall, barn, or home and have a group of seven or more patients interested in services, we would love to connect with you. Please contact Renee to arrange an outreach clinic in your area.

At WeCare Clinic, our mission is to serve you and meet your genetic healthcare needs in every way possible. We hope to reach more families by scheudling outreach clinics in Tennessee as soon as possible.

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Community and Family Health Awareness Day 2025 Highlights

More than 100 people attended the Community and Family Health Awareness Day at the WeCare Clinic on September 13, 2025. The group included 91 adults, 61 children, six staff members, four speakers, seven board members, and 16 volunteers who helped with children's activities. Children were divided into age groups for fun, supervised activities so their parents could focus on the presentations.

Undiagnosed Medical Conditions

The first speakers, Drs. Kevin Byram and Ashley McMinn from Vanderbilt, talked about the Vanderbilt Undiagnosed Diseases Program. This program has two goals: **(1) to find answers for patients with unexplained medical conditions and (2) improve understanding of both rare and common diseases.**



The speakers reviewed nine warning signs that may suggest a rare disease and explained when parents should seek medical care. They also shared that their program works with about 30 medical centers across the United States, each serving 15 to 30 patients per year. The speakers explained the steps from applying to the program, to genetic testing, and then to research follow-up. Topics such as DNA sequencing and genetic variants were explained in easy-to-understand language.

Heart Conditions in Children and Families

The next speaker, Dr. Jeffrey Bennett, Director of Cardiovascular Genetics at Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital, works closely with the DDC Clinic in Ohio. He explained the difference between two types of heart conditions:

- **Congenital heart disease:** Present at birth, often caused by a mix of genetic and non-genetic factors. It usually affects only one child in a family and often requires surgery early in life.
- **Genetic heart disease:** Inherited and passed down in families. Symptoms may not appear until later in life and may require lifelong follow-up, medicines, or sometimes surgery.

Dr. Bennett shared that the DDC Clinic uses a genetic test that can identify up to **270 gene variants,** costing about $280–$350. The Family Heart Center, opened in 2024, now provides both in-person and referral-based testing. Pictures were used to help families understand inherited heart conditions such as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, long QT syndrome, dilated cardiomyopathy, and arrhythmogenic conditions.

Community and Family Health Awareness Day 2025 Highlights (cont.)

Blood Disorders in Children

The final speaker, Dr. Haydar Frangoul from TriStar Children's Hospital, was introduced by community member Caleb Habegger. Dr. Frangoul reviewed common childhood blood disorders, including anemia, low platelets (thrombocytopenia), and low neutrophils (neutropenia). These conditions are found using a complete blood count (CBC), a blood test that measures red blood cells, hemoglobin, white blood cells, and platelets.

- **Anemia**: A low number of red blood cells. The most common cause in children is **iron deficiency**. Dr. Frangoul reminded parents that cow's milk is low in iron, drinking too much can prevent children from eating enough iron-rich foods as well preventing absorption of iron from other foods. Iron supplements **(2–5 mg/kg/day)** can correct anemia in about two months. They should not be taken with milk but can be taken with vitamin C to improve absorption.
- **Neutropenia:** A low number of neutrophils, which makes it harder for the body to fight infections. Children with neutropenia are at higher risk for infections such as pneumonia, skin infections, and sepsis (a life-threatening reaction to infection). Parents should call their healthcare provider right away if a child with neutropenia develops a fever.
- **Thrombocytopenia:** A low platelet count, which increases the risk of bleeding.

Dr. Frangoul emphasized that a complete blood count (CBC) is important because if more than one blood cell type is low, it may point to a more serious condition and should be referred to a health care provider immediately.

At the conclusion of the educational programs everyone enjoyed a delicious meal together and songs performed by the children. This time gave everyone an opportunity to connect with friends, meet new friends, seek answers to medical questions, and enjoy the wonderful autumn weather.

By Board Members: Susan Jones, PhD, RN and M. Eve Main, DNP, APRN

2026 Community and Family Health Awareness Day

Mark your calendars for the 2026 Community and Family Health Awareness Day event. ***It will be on Saturday, September 12, 2026 at WeCare Clinic.***

The event is for all. Anyone interested in learning more about genetic conditions, hearing from medical professionals, and learning more about WeCare Clinic are welcome to attend the event.



Strong Support at Fish Fry Fundraiser

We want to extend our gratitude to everyone who helped make the Fish Fry Fundraiser on June 19th a success! Your participation and genorosity truly make a difference as we strive to improve the quality of life for those impacted with genetic conditions. Support at events like this remind us how blessed we are to be surrounded by people who care and show up to help. From all of us at WeCare Clinic, thank you for your generosity, your time, and your support.



Big Turnout at Casey County Fundraising Auction



We are deeply grateful for the fundraising board's hard work, generosity, and unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life of those we serve. We are truly grateful for all that you do to help our organization thrive and make a lasting impact in the lives of the families we serve.

Your passion, creativity, and tireless efforts have made a meaningful difference in our ability to provide compassionate, high-quality care and support to individuals with rare special needs and their families.







By: Matthew L. Hunt, Ed.D.

Annual Report - Financial Data for 2025

The financial support provided by individuals, families, businesses, churches, and fundraising events is critical to WeCare Clinic's mission. This financial support enables our staff to become an established resource for families in need of critical care. Without it, we would not be able to serve families. If you have any questions about the clinic or how to get involved, contact Matthew L. Hunt, Executive Director, at (270) 202-6603.

WeCare Clinic 2025 Financial Statement

Income		Jan - Dec 25
Total Direct Public Support (Donations and Fundraisers)	$	701,863.00
Total Investments (Interest on Savings)	$	2,080.00
Total Program Income (Clinc Services)	$	100,005.00
Total Income	$	803,948.00

Expense		Jan - Dec 25
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	$	684,176.00
Total Operational Expenses	$	170,874.00
Total Expense	$	855,050.00
Net Income	$	(51,102.00)

By: Matthew L. Hunt, Ed.D.

New Location for Fall WeCare Clinic Fundraiser Auction

The October 2-3, 2026 WeCare Clinic Fundraiser auction will be held at the Pennyrile Auction Company. Be sure to mark your calendars for the date and new location of the fundraising auction supporting WeCare Clinic.

PAC Pennyrile Auction COMPANY

Pennyrile Auction Company
8224 West Jefferson Davis Hwy
Elkton, KY 42220

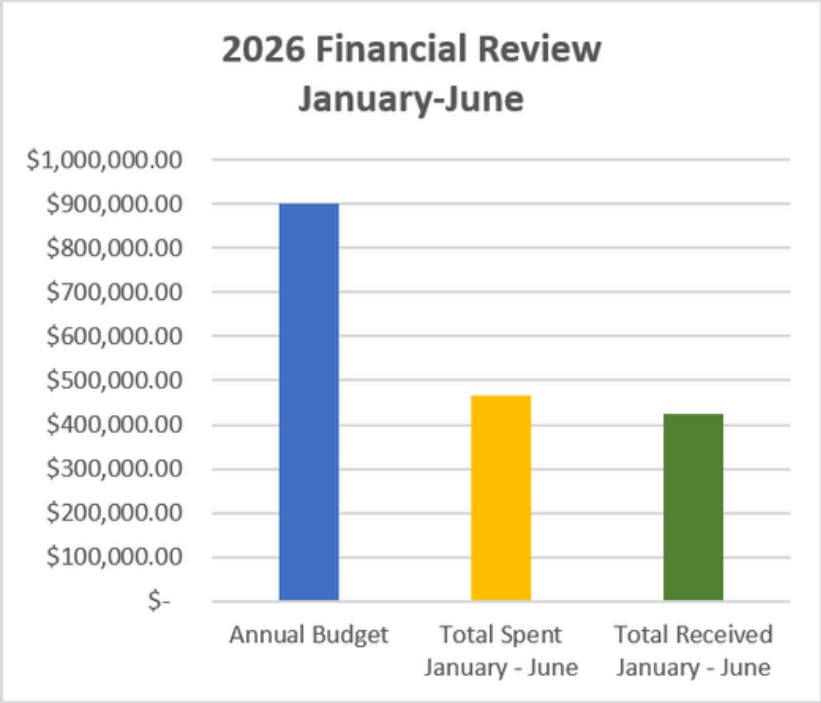
Financial Overview - January to June 2026

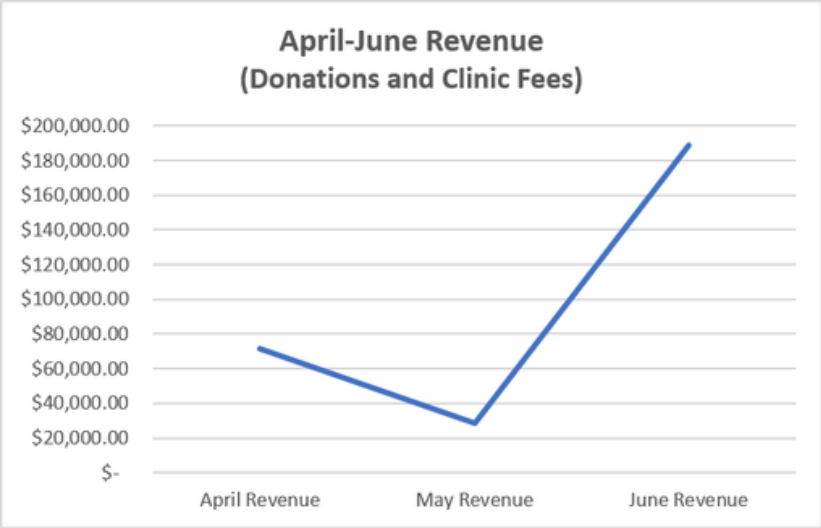


WeCare Clinic has collected $423,128.48 in revenue through fundraising efforts and clinic revenue between January and June. Year to date expenses were $465,888.49 resulting in a current operating deficit of $42,760.01.

Will you consider making a tax-deductible donation to help us provide care for children and adults with rare genetic conditions? Funds can be mailed directly to WeCare Clinic at 775 Pembroke Fairview Road, Pembroke, KY 42266. If you have questions about donating to WeCare Clinic, you can call (270) 202-6603.

By: Matthew L. Hunt, Ed.D.





2026 Outreach Clinics



September 30 - Smiths Grove

November 10 and 11 - Flemingsburg

December 15 - Munfordville



If you are interested in the upcoming outreach clinics or becoming a patient of WeCare Clinic, call 270-962-7383.

WECARE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Elton Burkholder
- James Hoover
- Susan Jones, PhD, RN
- M. Eve Main, DNP, APRN
- Daryl Martin
- Cleon Nolt (Treasurer)
  Ph: (270) 890-0398
- Marcus Nolt (Secretary)
  Ph: (270) 475-4128
- John Troyer
- Harvey Zimmerman (Chair)
  Ph: (270) 475-4191
- Lawrence Z. Zimmerman (Vice-Chair)
  Ph: (270) 886-5254

WECARE STAFF:

- Matthew L. Hunt, EdD
  Executive Director
- Gregory D. Mock, MD
  Medical Director
- Jolene Schmucker, APRN
  Nurse Practitioner
- Marlene Schmucker, RN, BSN
  Registered Nurse
- Tammy Sisk, CMA
  Office Assistant
- Renee Spivey, RN
  Clinic Operations Manager
- Erin Teague, MS, RD/N, LD
  Dietitian

Contact Us

If you have any questions about supporting 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.

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.

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775 Pembroke Fairview Road
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US. Postage Paid
Permit 74
Elkton, KY 42220