

SPRING/SUMMER 2022

# WECARE CLINIC MESSENGER



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

---

## Carrier Screening Day

This year our clinic was very blessed with anonymous donations from two compassionate families that understand the importance of carrier testing. These donors provided funding for 100 individuals to receive carrier testing. All 100 spots were filled, and there was a waiting list. The day was a success to say the least!

With the help of amazing volunteers, we were able to get all one hundred patients in and out of the clinic smoothly. Of the one hundred patients, fifty-one were females and forty-nine were males. We sent off thirteen carrier screens on women who are expecting along with their spouses. These tests will take priority so that we can provide screening results before they give birth.

The donation reached families in sixteen cities and five states. Elkton, Pembroke, Hopkinsville, Guthrie, and Trenton had the most patients. The staff in the clinic are excited to provide genetic screening information to these patients. For a breakdown of locations participating in the Carrier Screening Day, please see page 2.

Sometimes we hear, “Why would I do carrier testing? It will not change anything.” Knowledge is power. What if you were a carrier for a life-threatening condition that required you to have a specific medication and not every facility carried that medication? Would it not be an advantage to know this information ahead of time?

Continued on Page 2....

---

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Carrier Screening Day
- WeCare Clinic Hosts Midwife Educational Meeting
- Let's Talk About Gluten!
- Family Genetics Disease Day - 2022
- 2022 Financial Review
- Upcoming Events
- Contact Us
- Clinic Staff and Board of Directors
- Renovation Challenge

## Carrier Screening Day (cont.)

What if you have a bleeding disorder or clotting disorder and something happens to you or your child that requires surgery? We had a surgeon getting ready to do surgery on a child that had fallen out of a barn and was severely injured. The parents had done carrier testing and were positive for a clotting disorder. This information was valuable to the surgeons to help prevent this child from having complications. Carrier testing can also improve outcomes in the birth of a child with a rare genetic disease by knowing ahead of time what to expect and having a plan of action in place with the midwife or doctor.

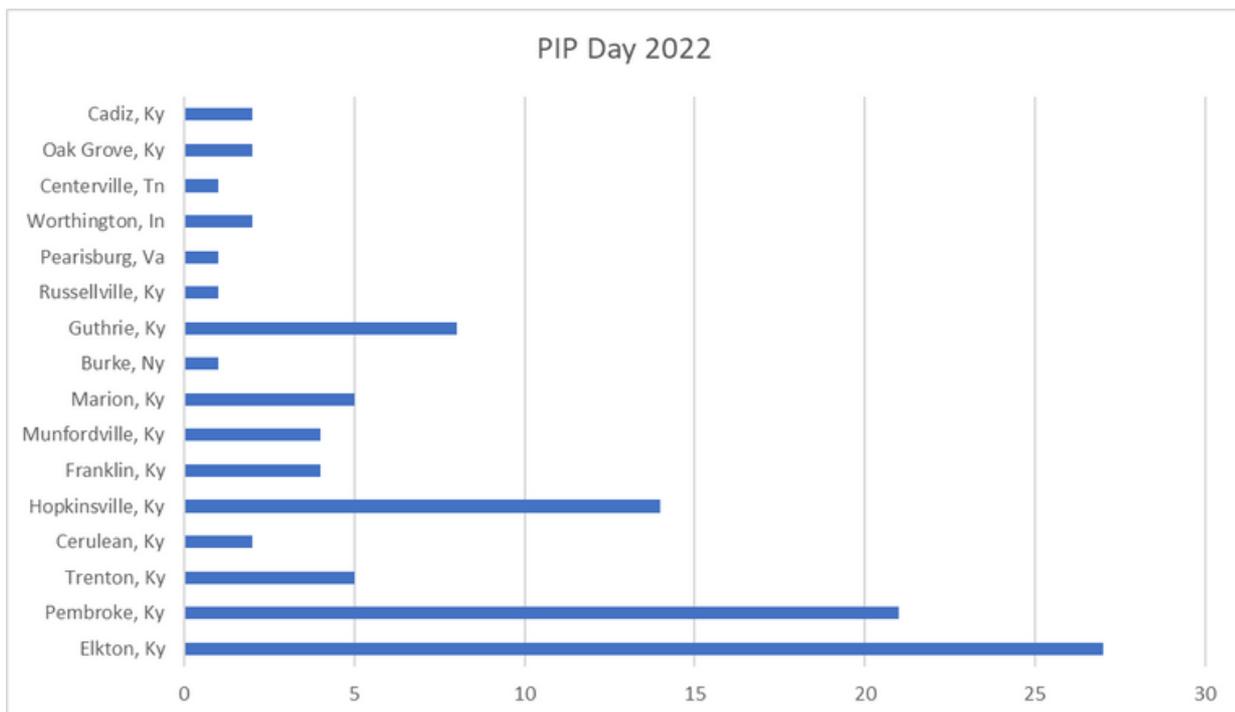


**Jolene Schmucker, APRN**

In the past, the clinic provided outreach clinics for Plain Insight Panel (PIP) testing in other communities such as Elkhorn and Cerulean. These events were not sponsored by donors, but the community leaders understood the need and asked us to provide services in their community. The PIP test is \$99 plus the blood draw fee and shipping. Once the results are received, genetic counseling is provided for an additional fee. Our clinic is offering Carrier Screening Days or PIP testing once a month to help cut down the cost of shipping. If you are interested in getting tested, please call the clinic. If your community would like us to come and have a carrier screening day, please call the clinic.



**Renee Spivey, RN**



## Pictures From Carrier Screening Day



## WeCare Clinic Hosts Midwife Educational Meeting

On June 7, 2022, WeCare clinic hosted a meeting for local midwives in the warehouse at Dutch Kuntry store in Fairview, Kentucky. There were 20 individuals in attendance including midwives, their helpers, interested community members, WeCare staff and board members.

Two OB/GYN doctors and one nurse presented and answered questions regarding Gestational Diabetes. After the presentation, there was much discussion and dialogue among the midwives and the medical staff. Next, Missy Travelsted, DNP from Western Kentucky University presented findings from a research project on Kentucky Anabaptists' Knowledge of Newborn Screening. After lunch, Dr. Mock led an interactive session on Plain Insight Panel testing through Clinic for Special Children in Strasburg, PA. He and Jolene Schmucker, APRN, discussed a new program WeCare is offering to local midwives and their patients.



**Marlene Schmucker, RN, BSN**

WeCare staff are excited and pleased to be able to support and educate our local midwives.

## Let's Talk About Gluten!

**What is it?** Gluten is a protein naturally found in wheat, barley, rye and triticale. It helps to provide texture, flavor, and structure to different foods.

**Is it OK to eat?** Most people can tolerate gluten without any issue! People with Celiac Disease experience an autoimmune response to gluten that can cause damage to their intestines. There are others who may be sensitive to gluten and have symptoms like bloating and diarrhea after eating it.



**Erin E. Teague MS, RD/N, LD**

**What are Gluten-free foods?** Do I need them? Gluten-free foods are certain types of food that would normally have gluten such as bread, pasta, baked goods and snacks such as crackers or chips, that are made with different grains to remove the gluten.

If you are on a **low-protein** diet, gluten-free foods may be a good choice for you! Gluten-free products typically contain half the amount of protein as the standard food such as bread or pasta. For example, regular pasta usually contains 7 gm of protein per 2 oz. serving. Gluten-free pasta usually contains 4 gm of protein or less per 2 oz. serving.

Ask your dietitian if you think these foods may help with your low-protein diet!

## Family Genetics Disease Day - 2022

WeCare Clinic is pleased to announce Family Genetic Disease Day 2022! This event is planned for Saturday, September 24, 2022 at 9am on the grounds of WeCare Clinic. Our main speaker will be Mark Loudon from the University of Wisconsin. He will speak on the subject of "Communication Between Plain Families and Health Care Providers." There will also be stories from families who have been treated at WeCare Clinic and other medical facilities. Erin Teague, our dietitian will be here as well. She plans to give a presentation on "General Overview of Proteins" a discussion on the role of proteins in our bodies and how certain genetic disorders affect that role. Dr. Thomas Morgan, biochemical geneticist from Vanderbilt University will give a presentation on their current research on Propionic Acidemia.

We hope many of you will join us for a day of interesting and helpful presentations, lunch on the grounds, and informal interactions with other families and WeCare staff.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to WeCare Clinic by phone: 270-962-7383, by fax: 270-962-7385 or by mail: 775 Pembroke Fairview Road, Pembroke, KY 42266.

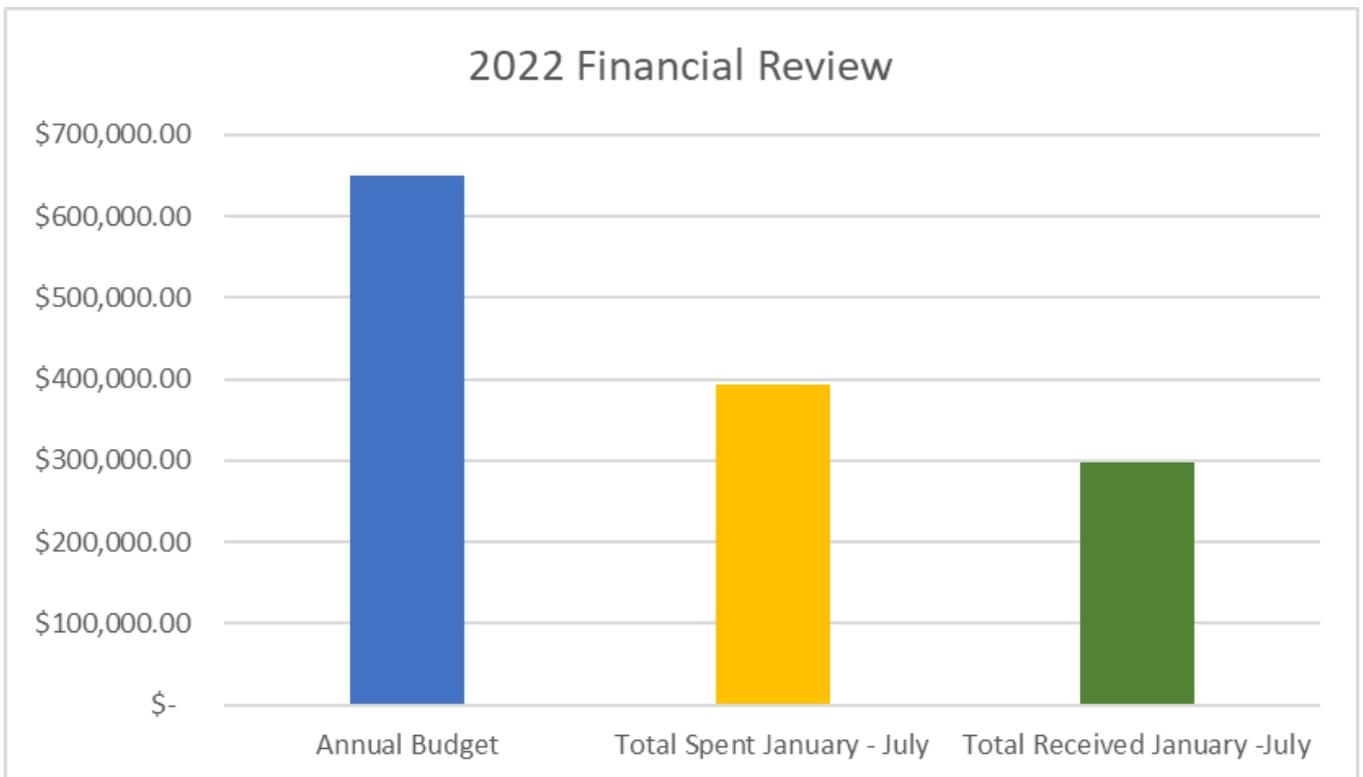
Please respond by September 14, 2022.

## 2022 Financial Review

WeCare Clinic board of directors and staff are committed to improving the quality of life for families with genetic disorders through medical care, education, and research. In a short two years of serving patients, WeCare staff have provided care for patients from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Wisconsin. However, more funds are needed for 2022.

WeCare Clinic has collected \$296,702.48 in revenue through fundraising efforts and clinic revenue between January and July. During the first seven months of the year, expenses were \$393,106.93. WeCare Clinic is currently operating at a \$96,404.45 deficit. WeCare Clinic was fortunate to have funds in savings that have been transferred to help operate the clinic. The savings account is nearly depleted. More financial help is needed.

Please consider lending the clinic a helping hand through a tax-deductible donation to help us meet our budget. 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.





## Upcoming Events:

### 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: Starting at 6:00pm on September 30 and Starting at 9:00am on October 1

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. 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*
- Gregory D. Mock, MD  
*Medical Director*
- Jolene Schmucker, APRN  
*Nurse Practitioner*
- Marlene Schmucker, RN, BSN  
*Registered Nurse*
- Tammy Sisk  
*Office Assistant*
- Renee Spivey, RN  
*Registered Nurse*
- Erin Teague, MS, RD/N, LD  
*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](http://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. 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 areas 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 to open up more clinic rooms for our patients and have a dedicated lab area. Adding more space to the clinic 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: \_\_\_\_\_

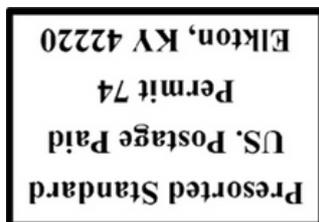
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

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



WeCare Clinic - Medical Care for Special Needs  
775 Pembroke Fairview Road  
Pembroke, KY 42266

