

SPRING 2025

# 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 [www.wecareforspecialneeds.org](http://www.wecareforspecialneeds.org)

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## The Renovation is Complete

WeCare Clinic opened its doors to provide medical care for patients in November 2020.



It is hard to believe the five-year anniversary of providing care will occur at the end of this year. Soon after opening it became apparent the need for specialized genetic care in Kentucky was strong. As each month passed by, we provided care for more and more families throughout Kentucky. It wasn't long before we started seeing patients in bordering states, and now we have patients from well beyond Kentucky. We appreciate the trust you have in us to provide care for your loved ones.

After securing seed money we started the renovation project while we continued to fundraise for the renovation. We received donated and discounted material for the project. Even though I have been involved in medical outreach in Plain Communities for nearly two decades, I continue to be amazed by the sense of community and the desire to lend a helping hand when one is needed. I received numerous calls and handwritten letters asking how their community could get involved in the project. The volunteers that came to the clinic to share their skills and talents on the renovation were too many to count. We are grateful for the support on the renovation, and we are excited to announce the renovation is complete.

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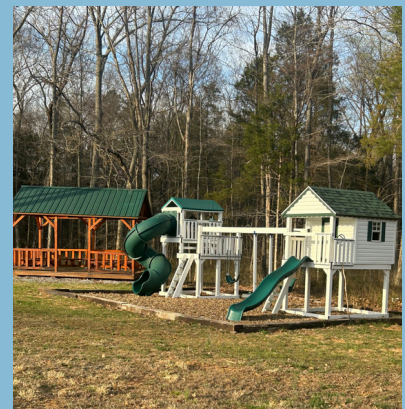
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## The Renovation is Complete (cont.)

Even though we received financial support, donated/discouted materials, and volunteer labor, we had to use funds from WeCare Clinic's savings account to finish the renovation. We are thankful that we did not need a loan for the project. However, by cash flowing the project it resulted in a net deficit for calendar year 2024 in the amount of \$132,423.62. We are working to restore our savings account to ensure we are able to provide care for special needs patients for years to come. Will you consider a tax-deductible donation to help us restore the savings account? Donations can be mailed directly to WeCare Clinic.

By: Matthew L. Hunt, Ed.D.



# The Dangers of Homemade Baby Formula: Why It's Risky for Your Baby

Homemade baby formulas have become popular, especially during formula shortages. Some parents might think making their own formula is a natural or healthier choice, but it can actually be very dangerous for babies. Babies need very specific nutrients in their first months of life, and homemade formulas often do not meet these needs. Here are the reasons why homemade baby formula can be risky.



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

## 1. Nutritional Imbalance

The biggest problem with homemade baby formula is that it might not have the right balance of nutrients. Store-bought formulas are made by experts to be very similar to breast milk. These formulas contain the right amounts of protein, fat, carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals that babies need to grow. Homemade formulas often miss the mark on this balance. For example, if the formula does not have enough fat or sugar, it can cause malnutrition. Too much of certain minerals like calcium or iron can also be harmful.

## 2. Risk of Contamination

Homemade formulas are more likely to be contaminated with harmful bacteria and germs. Commercial formulas are made in clean, regulated factories, but homemade formulas are made in kitchens that might not be as clean. If the formula is prepared or stored in the wrong way, it can get contaminated and cause infections. These infections can lead to vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration, and even death. Babies are especially at risk because their immune systems are still developing.

## 3. Incorrect Preparation and Storage

Making homemade formula involves a lot of steps, including measuring ingredients, making sure everything is clean, and storing the formula at the right temperature. Even a small mistake, like using water that has not been boiled, or storing the formula incorrectly, can be dangerous. Some ingredients, like honey, should never be given to babies because it can lead to a serious illness called botulism. It's important to follow strict rules when making formula, and small mistakes can cause big problems.

## 4. Lack of Essential Ingredients

Some homemade formulas often use things like almond milk or coconut milk as a base, but these milks do not have the right nutrients that babies need, such as protein and fat. Some parents might add oils or supplements to fix this, but it is not always enough. Other formulas use animal milk, like cow, goat or sheep milk, which can be too high in protein and can harm a baby's intestines and kidneys. These milks can also have too much calcium, which can stop the body from using iron, leading to iron deficiency. Homemade formulas also often do not have enough vitamin D, which is needed for strong bones. A lack of vitamin D can cause bone problems like rickets.



## The Dangers of Homemade Baby Formula: Why It's Risky for Your Baby (cont.)

### 5. No Regulation or Oversight

Commercial baby formulas have strict safety standards, but homemade formulas do not. There are no set rules for homemade formulas, and parents might follow recipes from well-meaning family or friends that are not safe. Babies have different needs, especially if they have medical conditions, and homemade formulas are not tested to make sure they are safe and healthy for babies.

### 6. Risk of Over or Underfeeding

Homemade formulas can also make it hard to give the right amount of formula to babies. It is difficult to know exactly how much nutrition is in a homemade formula, so parents might accidentally give too much or too little. Babies need very specific amounts of formula because their stomachs are small, and not getting the right amount can affect their growth and development.

### 7. The Need for Professional Guidance

While parents want the best for their babies, making homemade formulas can be complicated and risky. Registered Dietitians (RDs) are experts in baby nutrition and can help make sure babies get the right food. Making homemade formula without expert advice is usually not a safe choice.

### Conclusion

Homemade baby formula might seem like a good option, but the risks are too great. Babies can face problems like missing important nutrients, getting sick from contaminated formula, and not getting the right amount. For most parents, it is best to avoid making homemade baby formula.

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## Midwife Meeting in May

WeCare has a midwife meeting scheduled for May 5, 2025 at 9am in the clinic conference room. Our topics for this meeting are "What to Know about Rh Immune Globulin" by Melinda Joyce, PharmD and "Gestational Diabetes" by a dietitian.

After the topics we will have lunch together prepared by some lovely ladies from the community. Then we will pull our chairs together in a circle and have informal discussions and stories in the afternoon for around an hour.



**By: Marlene Schmucker, RN, BSN**

If you know of a midwife in your community who would enjoy coming to the meeting, have her contact the clinic for more information! We enjoy these meetings and the opportunity to interact with midwives. A midwife is the first person to see a baby and notice issues that may need further evaluation or treatment, so it is important to foster and maintain our relationships with our local midwives.

## 2025 Community and Family Health Awareness Day

One of my favorite events each year is our Community and Family Health Awareness Day. Planning is currently underway for this annual educational event. The day will begin with registration at 8:30am on September 13, 2025, and include a series of presentations with knowledgeable speakers from the DDC Clinic, Vanderbilt University and more. Lunch will be served and there will be time for visiting with other families. More details will follow in the August edition of the WeCare Messenger. If you have any questions about the clinic or how to get involved, contact Matthew L. Hunt, Executive Director, at (270) 202-6603.



By: Matthew L. Hunt, Ed.D.



## Fish Fry and Auction a Success

The board of directors and staff at WeCare Clinic want to thank everyone involved in the fundraiser that took place at Bluegrass Sales Stables on April 4, 2025. Even though it stormed periodically throughout the day resulting in flooding, there was still a strong showing of support for the clinic (and the delicious fish and deserts). Numerous hours were spent spreading the word about the fish fry and auction, securing items for the auction, setting up the auction, cooking the delicious food, and selling the items to support the clinic. If you are interested in hosting a fundraiser auction for WeCare clinic, contact Matthew L. Hunt at 270-202-6603.

By: Matthew L. Hunt, Ed.D.

## Remaining 2025 Outreach Clinics

April 30 - Munfordville

May 28 - Flemingsburg

July 23 - Munfordville

August 5 - Flemingsburg

October 21 - Smiths Grove

October 28 - Munfordville

November 11 - Flemingsburg

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

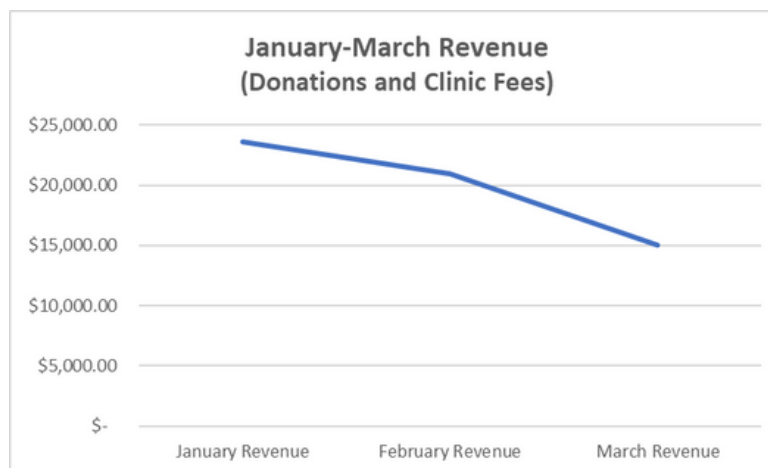
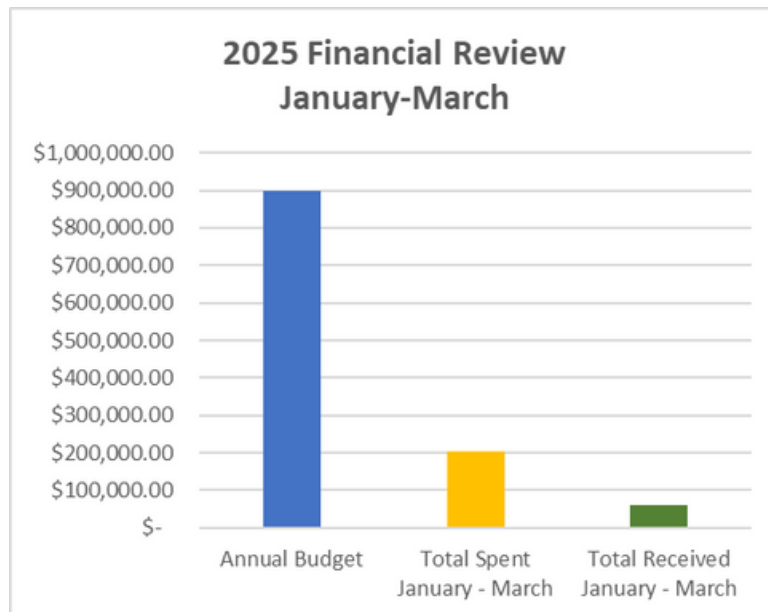
## Financial Overview - January to March 2025

WeCare Clinic has collected \$59,635.18 in revenue through fundraising efforts and clinic revenue between January and March. Year to date expenses were \$204,252.37 resulting in a current operating deficit of \$144,617.19.

Will you consider making a tax-deductible donation to help us meet our operation needs? 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.



## Upcoming Events:

### WeCare Midwife Meeting

Date: May 5, 2025

Time: 9:00am - 2:00pm

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

### WeCare Clinic Fundraiser Auction

Date: June 7, 2025

Time: Starting at 9:00am

Location: Casey County Produce Auction, 524 S Fork Creek Rd, Liberty, KY 42539

### WeCare Community and Family Health Awareness Day

Date: September 13, 2025

Time: 9:00am - 1:00pm

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

### WeCare Clinic Fundraiser Auction

Date: October 3 and October 4, 2025

Time: Starting at 6:00pm on October 4th and Starting at 9:00am on October 5th

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

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## WECARE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- James Hoover
- Susan Jones, PhD, RN
- M. Eve Main, DNP, APRN
- Cleon Nolt
- Marcus Nolt (Secretary)  
Ph: (270) 475-4128
- 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 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  
*Clinic Operations Manager*
- Erin Teague, MS, RD/N, LD  
*Dietitian*

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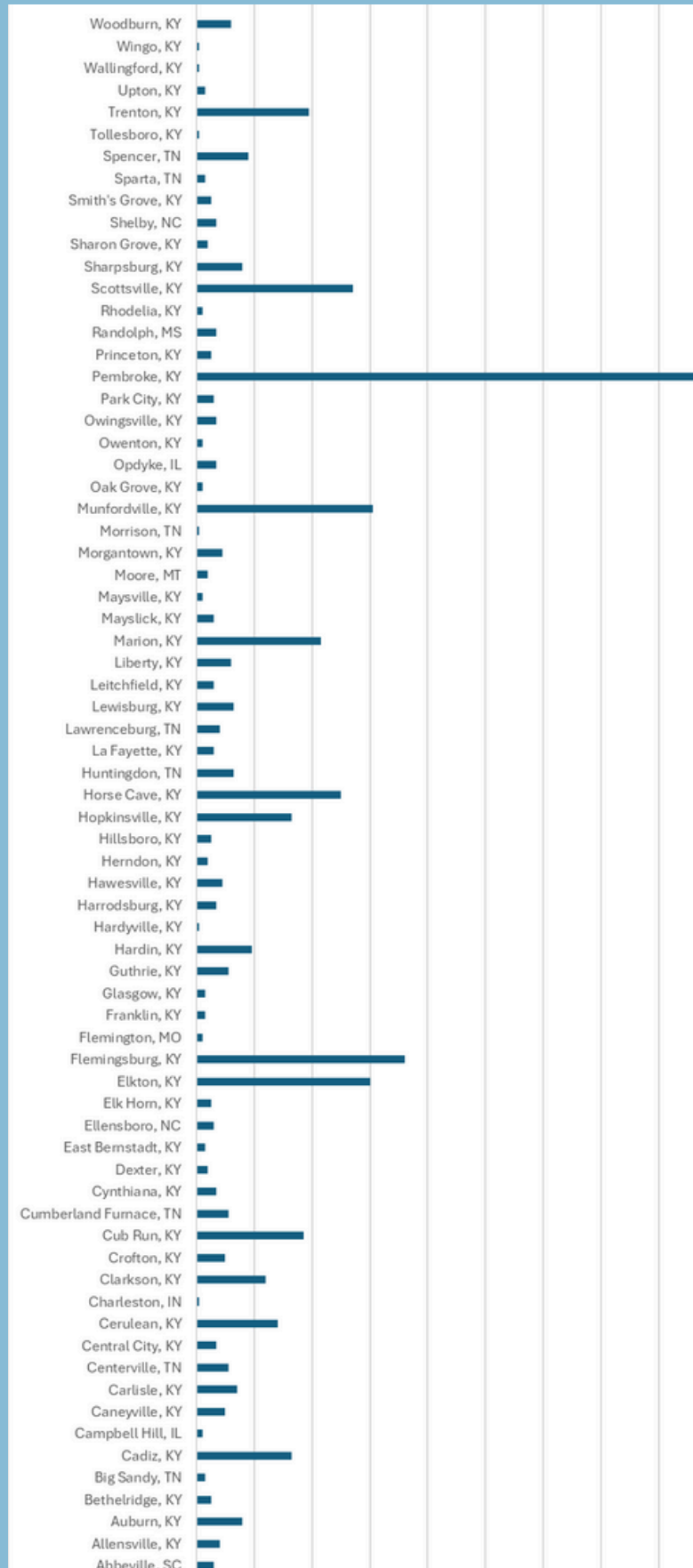
## Contact Us

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.*

## 2024 Annual Report

During calendar year 2024, the staff of WeCare Clinic provided care for patients from nine different states. The chart below shows the various cities and states where people traveled from to receive care at WeCare Clinic. During 2024 there were 1,104 appointments made at the clinic. The staff and board of directors want to thank you for your willingness to allow us to provide care for you and your family.





## 2024 Annual Report (cont.)

Visit Type	Count	Percentage
Blood Draw Only	326	28.0%
Routine/Follow-up	107	9.2%
Phone Call, Established	174	14.9%
Phone Call, Genetic Counseling	213	18.3%
Establishing Care	92	7.9%
Phone Call, Dietitian	91	7.8%
Telemedicine	22	1.9%
Home	23	2.0%
Sick	38	3.3%
Injection	6	0.5%
Genetic Counseling	8	0.7%
Phone Call, New	4	0.3%
<b>Total Visits</b>	<b>1104</b>	

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 2024 Financial Statement

<b>Income</b>		<b>Jan - Dec 24</b>
<b>Total Direct Public Support (Donations)</b>	\$	714,762.56
<b>Total Investments (Interest on Savings)</b>	\$	1,715.04
<b>Total Program Income (Clinic Services)</b>	\$	80,389.15
<b>Total Income</b>	\$	796,866.75
<b>Expense</b>		<b>Jan - Dec 24</b>
<b>Total Contract Services</b>	\$	31,000.58
<b>Total Facilities and Equipment</b>	\$	142,232.87
<b>Total Operations</b>	\$	68,022.20
<b>Total Other Types of Expenses</b>	\$	31,505.32
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Wages</b>	\$	646,758.88
<b>Total Travel and Meetings</b>	\$	9,770.52
<b>Total Expense</b>	\$	929,290.37
<b>Net Loss</b>	\$	(132,423.62)



By: Matthew L. Hunt, Ed.D.



By: Jolene Schmucker, APRN

## 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.

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

