

WeCare Clinic -

Medical Care for Special Needs

775 Pembroke Fairview Rd
Pembroke, KY 42266

Winter 2016 - 2017 Newsletter

WeCare Clinic - *Medical Care for Special Needs* is being organized on a non-profit basis to provide a diagnostic and out-patient primary medical care facility for children and adults with genetic disease in the Amish, Mennonite, and English communities of central and western Kentucky and surrounding areas.

The new clinic is being modeled after Dr. Morton's Clinic for Special Children located in Strasburg, Pennsylvania. Dr. Holmes Morton and his wife Caroline established the non-profit Clinic for Special Children 26 years ago to provide comprehensive medical care for children with complex and dangerous genetic diseases. At the time, there was not appropriate medical care available for these children in Lancaster County. Among the fundamental aims of the Clinic for Special Children was, and remains, accessibility of care for affected children; accessibility is judged by proximity and financial measures.

Based on the vastly improved outcomes, and greatly reduced medical costs associated with the care of many Clinic for Special Children patients, Dr. Morton is convinced that children and adults suffering from genetic diseases in most communities, especially Plain Communities, would benefit from the establishment of clinics, which follow the Clinic for Special Children model. He and Caroline provided advice, guidance, and encouragement to the founders of the DDC Clinic (Das Deutsch Center) in Cheyago County, OH; this clinic has been successfully caring for children and adults with genetic diseases since 2000. In addition to Clinic



Partial south view of the future home of WeCare Clinic

for Special Children and DDC Clinic are New Leaf Clinic for Special Children in Middle field, OH, Community Health Center in Topeka, IN, LaFarge Clinic in LaFarge, WI, and the Central Pennsylvania Clinic in Belleville, PA. While there are close connections between *WeCare Clinic* and the other special needs clinics, they are separate non-profit corporate entities, engaged in independent medical practices, and each supported by its own funding sources. *WeCare Clinic* will follow the financial model of the other special needs clinics. Fees will cover approximately 25-30% of its operating expenses. 70-75% of the clinic's operating expenses will be covered by donations, contributions, and grants. Genetic disease is an on-going, life-long foe; the commitment of community and out-of-community donors and institutions to support and sustain a clinic for special children and adults is long term as well.

WeCare Clinic will be located 3/4 mile south of Fairview, KY off Rt. 115. The secluded five acre property includes a house which will be renovated to use as offices for the new clinic. One physician and one RN will deliver the comprehensive medical care provided at *WeCare Clinic*. The staff will be hired once first year operating expenses are in place. *WeCare Clinic* hopes to be in operation by January 2018, depending on staff and funding.

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The Value of a Special Needs Clinic by the Martins

When we still lived in PA and needed the Clinic for Special Children in Strasburg, PA, it was there. We never gave it much thought of all that was involved to get it there, it was just there. The Clinic for Special Children was a help and haven for us many times, especially when one of our children with MSUD was sick. Anyone who has a child with a metabolic disorder knows the worry and stress when the child gets sick. So usually when we walked through the doors of Clinic for Special Children the stress was high. Now enters a very special doctor, "Dr. Morton". There was hardly ever a time we could not feel the stress seep away once the sick child was in his care. What made him so special? He understood the care that these children needed and was always so calm and relaxed. If hospital care was needed we could bypass the emergency room and go straight to a room on the pediatric floor. Special IV was ordered and started immediately. Amino acid levels were done at the Clinic for Special Children lab twice a day and results were quick. The nurses and pharmacy at the hospital were also familiar with the special care. This gives a glimpse of what makes Dr. Morton and the Clinic for Special Children so special on a personal level. On a broader scale Dr. Morton also went beyond medical care and worked with the hospitals to give fair rates for the uninsured saving the communities large amounts of money. When we moved to KY we realized even more the health care we lost. Establishing a special needs clinic takes a lot of support and working together. If your family does not have special needs at this time, you never know, your support may be helping to smooth the road for your children or grandchildren.

Needs Assessment Statistics

Thank you to everyone that participated in the needs assessment survey earlier this year. Western Kentucky University's Institute for Rural Health worked with the *WeCare* board of directors to conduct a needs assessment to determine the need for establishing a special

needs clinic in Kentucky. The questionnaire was mailed to 2,043 households in the Plain Communities with 51 returned and marked undeliverable. The questionnaire was completed and returned by 547 households for a 27.46% return rate. Of the 547 returned questionnaires, 197 (36%) of the households reported a known or suspected genetic disorder.

Putting Donations to Work

Donations thus far have been used to purchase the property and to cover some legal fees. The expense for the clinic property was \$115,000 and has been entirely funded by donations made to the clinic. A special thank you to everyone who helped with the \$20,000 matching gift offered to the clinic. With the support from the local and other communities this gift has been more than matched. Further donations will go for doctors salary and other first year operating expenses.

WeCare Clinic Board of Directors

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WeCare Clinic – *Medical Care for Special Needs* is a Tax-exempt public charity: EIN: 81-2803975

Donors who wish to support WeCare Clinic may send donations to:

**WeCare Clinic
3165 Pembroke Fairview Rd
Pembroke, KY 42266**

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
1245 Old Route 15, New Columbia, PA 17856