SPRING 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

Carrier Testing: The PIP (Plain Insight Panel)



Back in 2022, WeCare Clinic was blessed by two anonymous donors whose compassion made a lasting impact. Their generosity funded carrier testing for 100 individuals through the Plain Insight Panel (PIP), a specialized screening offered at a discounted rate to our patients. The PIP includes over 1300 genetic changes (variants) that can affect health.

Of those tested, 51 were women and 49 were men. Among them, 13 expecting mothers and their spouses were prioritized to ensure results were available before the birth of their children. Thanks to this support, families across 16 cities and 5 states were reached, with the highest participation coming from Elkton, Pembroke, Hopkinsville, Guthrie, and Trenton. Our staff was—and continues to be—excited to provide meaningful genetic insights to the families we serve.

You may be wondering why we're revisiting this story. The answer is simple: the cost of the PIP has increased over the past few years, with another price increase in April 2026. Our concern is that rising costs may discourage families from pursuing this important testing.

At WeCare Clinic, we believe no family should have to make healthcare decisions based solely on financial limitations. That's why our team is working toward establishing a dedicated PIP donation fund to help ensure access for everyone, regardless of their financial situation.

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Carrier Testing: The PIP (Plain Insight Panel) (cont.)

You might also ask, “Why should I consider carrier testing?” The answer is clear—knowledge is power. Carrier testing can provide answers to ongoing health concerns, offer clarity for families, and help prepare for the birth of a child who may have a rare genetic condition. With early knowledge, families and healthcare providers can plan ahead, improving outcomes and, in some cases, preventing extended hospital stays or complications.

In recent years, WeCare Clinic has hosted outreach events to expand access to PIP testing. Currently, the cost of the test is $350, plus fees for blood draw and shipping. Genetic counseling is available once results are received for an additional fee. To help reduce costs, we now offer monthly Carrier Screening Days, which help minimize shipping expenses.

It’s important to note that the Clinic for Special Children already subsidizes this test, reducing the price from $699 to $350 for our patients. Our hope is to build on this support through donations by establishing a PIP fund to provide additional assistance using a financial aid application process. *Our goal for the PIP fund in 2026 is $15,000.*

If you are interested in donating, being tested, or hosting a carrier screening day in your community, we encourage you to contact the clinic. Together, we can ensure that every family has access to the information they need to make informed, confident decisions about their health. Because when it comes to your family’s future, knowledge truly is priceless.

Donations can be mailed directly to WeCare Clinic at 775 Pembroke Fairview Road, Pembroke, KY 42266 with "PIP Fund" in the memo line of the check. If you have questions about donating to the PIP fund, please contact our Executive Director, Matthew L. Hunt at 270-202-6603.



By: Renee Spivey, RN



By: Matthew L. Hunt, Ed.D.

What Are Probiotics? (A Simple Guide)



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

Probiotics are live, "good" bacteria that help keep your body healthy, especially your digestive system. While bacteria often get a bad reputation, your body needs certain kinds to function well.

Why Your Body Needs Probiotics

Your gut (digestive system) is home to trillions of microorganisms, often called the gut microbiome. Probiotics help keep this system balanced. They aid in digestion, helping your body to break down food and absorb nutrients. They can support your immune system; this balance helps your body to fight off illness. Keeping "good" bacteria in the gut, also helps to keep down the amount of "bad" bacteria. Many find they can help reduce bloating, gas, and general GI discomfort.

Probiotics may help with digestive conditions including Irritiable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). Certain types, like saccharomyces boulardii, can also help prevent or relieve GI discomfort and diarrhea caused by antibiotic treatment. They can also be useful in replenishing "healthy" bacteria after using antibiotics. However, results can vary from person to person, and they are not a cure-all.

Foods That Contain Probiotics

You don't always need supplements—many foods naturally contain probiotics:

- Yogurt with live cultures
- Kefir (a drinkable fermented milk)
- Sauerkraut
- Kimchi
- Miso (a fermented soybean paste)
- Kombucha (fermented tea)

Should You Take Probiotic Supplements?

For most people, probiotics are safe. Mild side effects like gas or bloating can happen at first but usually go away. People with weakened immune systems or serious illnesses should be cautious and consult a doctor before using them.

You might consider supplements if:

- You've recently taken antibiotics
- You have frequent digestive issues
- Your diet lacks fermented foods

Probiotics are helpful, natural bacteria that support your gut and overall health. You can get them from foods or supplements, and they may improve digestion and immunity. A simple way to start? Add a serving of probiotic-rich food—like yogurt or kimchi—to your daily routine.

Growth and Education to Improve Patient Care



Tammy Sisk, CMA

As WeCare Clinic continues to grow, so do our opportunities to enhance the care and services we provide. We are incredibly fortunate to have a supportive and forward-thinking board that encourages staff development and gives opportunities for professional growth. Our team is always looking for ways to better serve our patients, and one of the most impactful ways we do this is by advancing our education and skills.

In March 2025, our office assistant, Tammy Sisk, took on the challenge of returning to school to earn her Medical Assistant Certificate. Tammy saw this as an opportunity to contribute more to the clinic and support our patients in new ways. Balancing a full-time job while caring for her family made this no small task. She worked at the clinic during the day and attended classes from 6:00–9:00 PM twice a week.

Throughout her training, Tammy gained hands-on knowledge in physician orders, clerical responsibilities, laboratory procedures, injections, and blood draws. By November 2025, she successfully completed her certification, including 160 clinical hours and passing her state exam.



By: Renee Spivey, RN

What does this mean for WeCare Clinic? Tammy's certification now allows her to step in and assist whenever additional support is needed, whether covering for staff members like Renee or Marlene or helping during especially busy times. Since earning her certification, Tammy has already performed lab work for over 60 adult patients and recently began working with pediatric patients as well. Tammy has attended outreach clinics and made it easier to see increase of patients on these days. We are incredibly grateful for her initiative and dedication. When asked what motivated her, Tammy shared that she simply wanted to help more and saw an opportunity to do so.

Strong Support at Fish Fry Fundraiser

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make the Fish Fry Fundraiser on March 27th a success! Because of your generous support—whether you cooked, served, donated, volunteered, or simply came out to enjoy a great meal—funds were collected to support the work at WeCare Clinic.

Your participation and kindness truly make a difference as we strive to improve the quality of life for those impacted with genetic conditions. 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.

By: Matthew L. Hunt

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.

An Update on Midwife Meetings



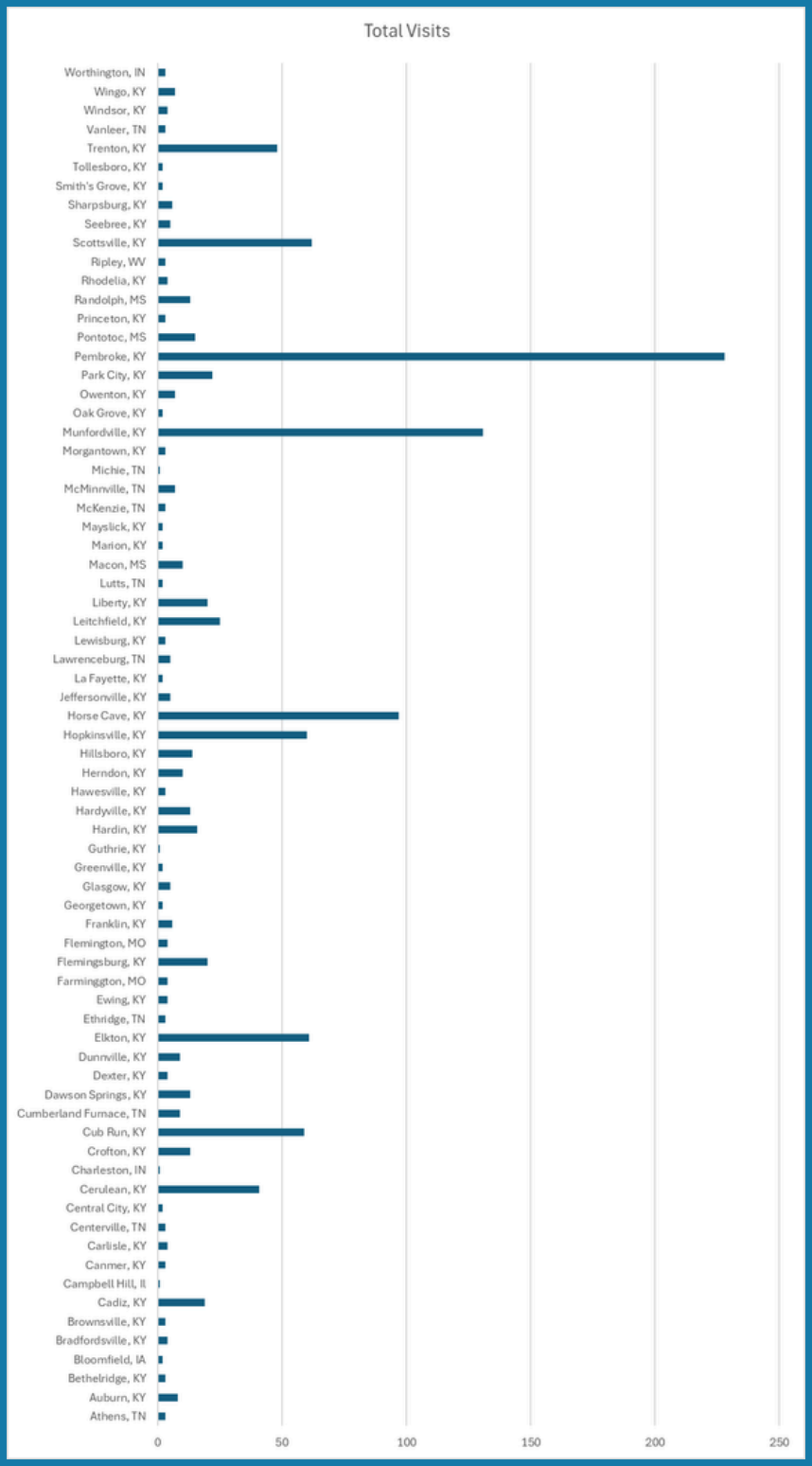
By: Marlene Schmucker, RN, BSN

On November 17, 2025, 34 attendees (WeCare staff/board member, midwives, drivers, cook and presenters) gathered in the conference room at WeCare clinic. Six staff members from Med Center Health in Bowling Green attended and presented interesting topics on Hypertension in Pregnancy and Newborn Exam. We learned various causes of hypertension during pregnancy and appropriate treatments. There was dialogue between the medical staff and their conventional medical approaches to treating hypertension and responses from the midwives on natural treatments. Conventional treatments include medicine and dietary restrictions. We thank Sara Beth Harrison, BSN, RN C-EFM and Holly Thomas, DO, PGY-2, for their presentations onHypertension. Next, Dorcas Allen, BSN, RNC-LRN gave us an informative presentation on essentials of a Newborn Exam. A newborn is examined from head to toe to check for any abnormalities that need treatment or further diagnosis. After each presentation there were questions and comments from the attendees. After the presentations we were served a delicious lunch by Susanna Shirk then we gathered informally in a circle back in the conference room for stories and discussion among the midwives and WeCare staff.

Our most recent midwife meeting was on Monday, April 13, 2026 in the WeCare Clinic conference room. The speakers were from Med Center Health in Bowling Green and included Stevie Hoyng, PGY-2 for Hyperemesis in pregnancy and Sarah Beth Harrison, BSN, RN CEFM and Jamie Sears, ADN, RN for Fetus Placement in Utero. After lunch, we discussed proper procedures for sending cord blood to Clinic for Special Children. Also included in this discussion were messages from Clinic for Special Children and Erin Teague, our WeCare dietitian regarding the importance of getting certain metabolic disorders (such as MSUD and PKU) diagnosed in a timely manner and which formulas need to be started while waiting for diagnosis. If you are a midwife or know one who is not on our mailing list, please contact WeCare Clinic with their name and mailing address.

Annual Report - Clinic Data for 2025

During calendar year 2025, the staff of WeCare Clinic provided care for patients from eight different states. The chart below shows the various cities and states where people traveled from to receive care at WeCare Clinic. During 2025, there were 1,194 appointments made at the clinic. The staff and board of directors want to thank you for allowing us to provide care for you and your family.



Annual Report - Clinic Data for 2025 (cont.)

Visit Type	Count	Percentage
Blood Draw Only	314	26.90%
Phone Call, Genetic Counseling	213	18.30%
Phone Call, Dietitian	176	15.10%
Phone Call, Established	169	14.50%
Routine/Follow-up	126	10.80%
Establishing Care	115	9.90%
Telemedicine	28	2.40%
Home	25	2.10%
Sick	20	1.70%
Phone Call, New	3	0.30%
Genetic Counseling	3	0.30%
Injection	2	0.20%
Total Appointments	1194	



By: Jolene Schmucker, APRN

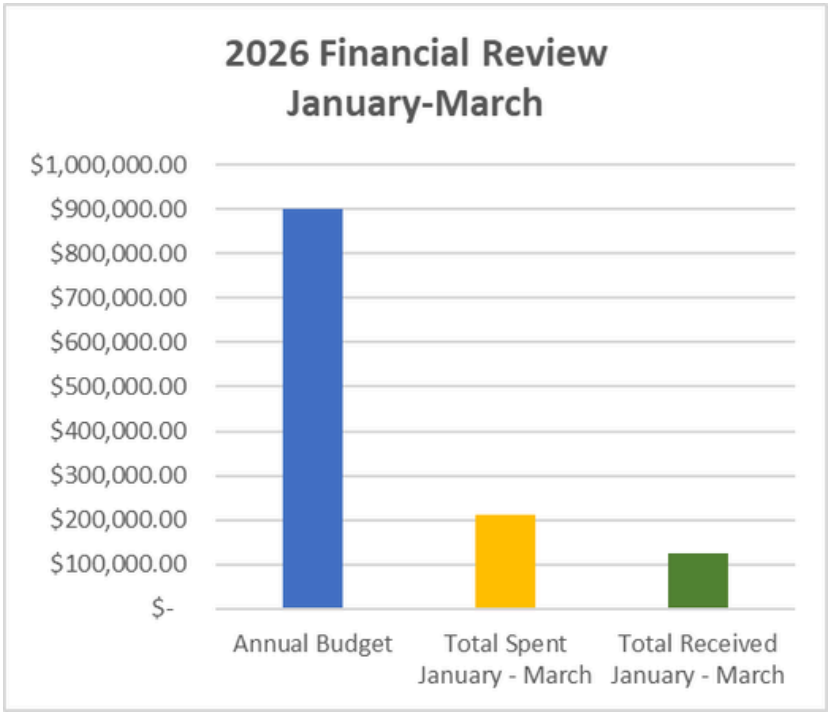
Financial Overview - January to March 2026

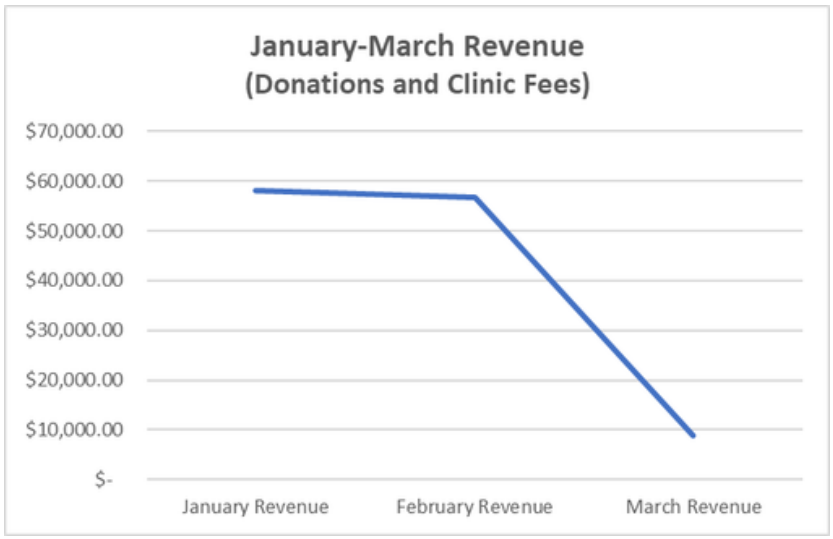


WeCare Clinic has collected $123,566.99 in revenue through fundraising efforts and clinic revenue between January and March. Year to date expenses were $211,481.60 resulting in a current operating deficit of $87,914.61.

More funds are needed. *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

May 12 and 13 - Flemingsburg

July 29 - Munfordville

August 18 - Casey County

September 30 - Smiths Grove

November 9 and 10 - 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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