

FALL 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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## Year-End Matching Grant

The picture to the right is the entryway to WeCare Clinic. Many families struggling to find answers to medical questions have entered the clinic during the first five years of operation. Entering a medical clinic can often be a stressful situation for families. Our goal is to make you feel comfortable each time you visit the clinic. We are not surrounded by skyscraper buildings and asphalt. We are in a serene, rural setting filled with the natural beauty of God's creation.



WeCare Clinic staff have already encountered 4,524 patient visits during the first five years of operation. That number will increase when we include the patient visits for November and December of 2025. Operating a special needs clinic is a blessing, but it requires ongoing financial support. We are grateful for the support of generous individuals and businesses. With their support over \$30,000 has been already pledged for the work at WeCare Clinic. I would like to challenge you to contribute toward matching their donation. The goal for the year-end matching grant is \$100,000. Reaching the goal of \$100,000 will help the clinic get closer to finishing 2025 without a deficit.

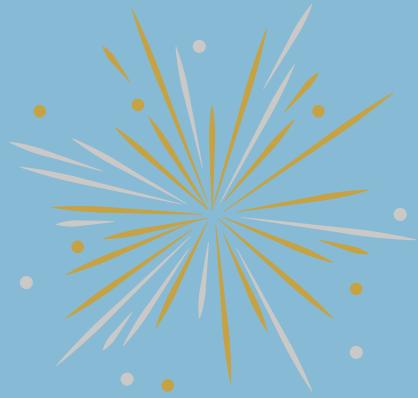
Donations can be mailed directly to WeCare Clinic at 775 Pembroke Fairview Road, Pembroke, KY 42266. with "Matching Grant" in the memo line of the check.

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## WeCare Clinic Reaches 5-Year Milestone!

A genetic clinic in western Kentucky was the vision of a group of Anabaptist leaders for more than a decade. The first public meeting to discuss this vision occurred in March 2009 in Glasgow, Kentucky with over 100 members of Anabaptist communities attending a day-long meeting. In 2015, community meetings, data collection, fundraising, and the formation of a nonprofit clinic started taking shape. Numerous individuals have worked tirelessly to establish and maintain WeCare Clinic. Thanks for the first five years (2020-2025)!



### Letter from Board Chairman

*Greetings to everyone on this beautiful fall evening. As we view the sunset in the west, we think of our Creator, and we say how great thou art.*

*As we approach the end of 2025, it completes the five years since WeCare opened their doors. After years of paperwork, and many hours of helping hands with the first renovation in December 2020, WeCare began seeing patients. The increase in patients from 2021 to 2022 was astounding. There was no question what the staff was going to do to stay busy with as many as 466 patient visits in 2021 quickly increasing to 898 patient visits in 2022.*

*WeCare quickly outgrew the facility. With more staff and more supplies, WeCare was in need of more office space and a conference room. Again, the communities stepped forward to help. Many carpenters worked Saturdays to help get it completed. Our dedicated, hard-working staff was very patient during the renovation with dust, noise, disturbances, and etc. A hearty thank you to the staff for being patient before and during the renovation. And thank you to the staff for patience before adding more offices and a conference room with staff sharing offices, very little lunchroom, and very little space to store supplies. The staff just kept on going and did not complain. The staff is very appreciative of all the extra space. They now each have their own office.*

*It was rewarding to be part of the Board of Directors the past five years with very passionate dedicated fellow Board members. Thank you to all the donations everyone shared with WeCare. Without your support WeCare couldn't continue. In the past five years financially we were very blessed, and at times we had only enough to go one more month. We started wondering what to do, but we always had enough to operate, and donations picked up again. One of the greatest rewards of being a part of WeCare is being able to keep newborns and children out of the hospital, at home with the parents.*

*Blessings wishes to everyone,*

*Harvey Zimmerman*

## Letter from Executive Director

Dear Friends of WeCare Clinic,

*I hope you are enjoying the cooler temperatures and changing of the leaves. I want to spend a few moments reflecting on what led me to WeCare Clinic and the first five years of operation of the clinic.*

*I have been serving in healthcare positions for nearly 20 years. I am grateful to share that I have been working with and in Plain Communities my entire career. During the past two decades, numerous families have opened their homes to me. I have had more meals, desserts, and conversations at the dinner table that I can count. During the dinner table chats I gleaned from each conversation the strong desire to help others in need. I repeatedly heard that children with special needs are "God's gift to us." This strong desire to help others aligned with my personal aspirations, so in 2015 when I first heard about the vision of establishing a special needs, genetic clinic in Kentucky I was beyond happy. When given the opportunity to serve on the board of directors and as the Executive Director, I was not going to turn down the opportunity. I am grateful for the experiences God has given me to serve others.*

*At times it seemed like the process of data collection, developing a board of directors, completing tax forms, forming a nonprofit, developing bylaws, spreading awareness about the clinic across the state, fundraising and renovating a facility was moving too slow at times. Looking back, those first five years between 2015-2020 were pivotal to getting where we are today.*

*The first five years of operation have brought many happy moments, but some sad moments as well. The number of patients and patient visits have surpassed all my expectations. The rapid growth meant that we needed to hire additional staff, we quickly outgrew our space, and fundraising needed to increase quickly. We have been blessed to provide care for patients in many states. It is encouraging to see so many families putting their trust in our staff. We have been able to improve the quality of life for many patients and their families. While we have been blessed to help so many families, some of our patients have been terminally ill and have passed away. I often say our staff go the extra mile and have big hearts to serve others. When a patient passes away, it is difficult on our staff. We also lost a dear friend and board member, with the passing of Mark Hoover. Additionally, our dear friend and fundraising member, John Mark Eby passed away.*

*I want to thank our staff for their unwavering desire to serve patients. I am grateful for the support of our board of directors as the clinic continues to expand. Without individuals donating their time, skills, abilities, and money, none of this would be possible. I am excited to see what the next five years hold for WeCare Clinic.*

*Kindest regards,*

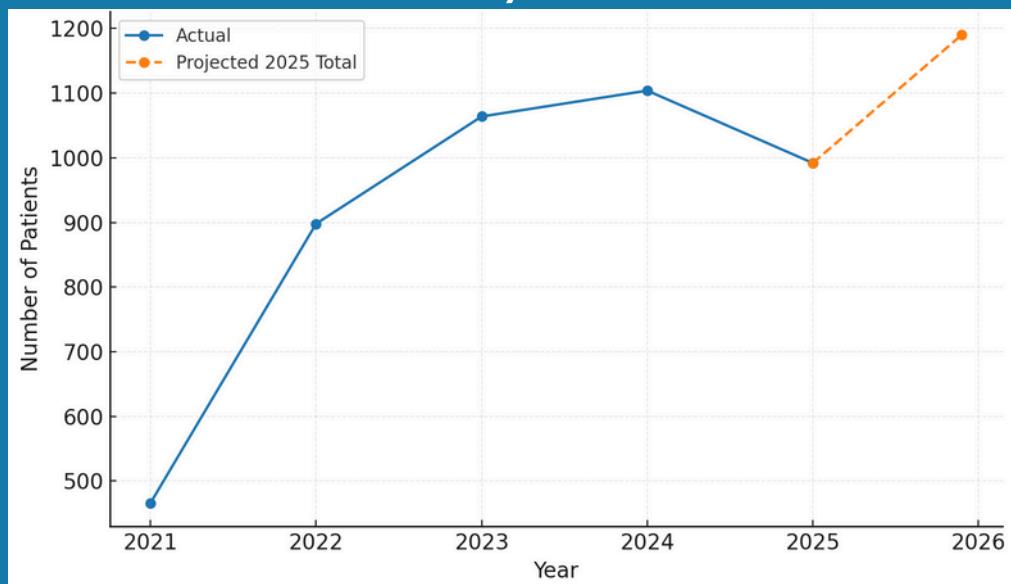
*Matthew L. Hunt, Ed.D.*

## Patient Growth in First Five Years of Operation

The clinic doors continue to swing open and the phones ring with families seeking answers to complex medical questions. The total patient visits continue to grow each year.

The following graph illustrates the total number of patient visits at WeCare Clinic from 2021 through 2025, with a projection for the remainder of 2025 based on data through October.

**Patient Visits By Calendar Year**



- 2021: 466 patient visits
- 2022: 898 patients visits
- 2023: 1,064 patient visits
- 2024: 1,104 patient visits
- 2025 (Jan-Oct): 992 patient visits

\*Based on the current growth trend, the projected total for 2025 is approximately 1,190 patients by year-end.



By: Jolene Schmucker, APRN

## Pictures from the First Five Years of Operation: 2020-2025

The pictures below are only a small collection from the first five years of operation. There are also a few bonus pictures of the years leading up to seeing our first patient in the fall of 2020. We are grateful that you are on this journey with us!



## Pictures from the First Five Years of Operation: 2020-2025 (cont.)



Thanks for your support during our first five years of operation!

## An Update on One of God's Golden Children

In the Fall 2023 newsletter, Renee Spivey, Clinic Operations Manager, wrote an article entitled, "Carrier Testing...Why do it?" that stressed the importance of parents completing the Plain Insight Panel (PIP) testing. The article shared the story of James and Arlene Hoover and the birth of their child Travis Lee Hoover. Travis was born positive with CN1. CN1 causes a buildup of bilirubin in the body, which leads to jaundice and kernicterus often leaving the children with a golden-yellow skin tone. In some hospitals they will put the patient under phototherapy lamps until levels come down and then send them home. Unfortunately, CN1 is much more severe and requires special phototherapy lights that are only built by one gentleman, Dr. Hendrik J. Vreman, at the Stanford University Medical Center in California. Dr. Hendrik J. Vreman created a special phototherapy solution that is home based instead of hospital based.



**Dr. Hendrik J Vreman**



**Phototherapy Light**

Fast-forward one year to the Fall 2024 newsletter, Matthew L. Hunt, Executive Director, wrote an article entitled, "Phototherapy Lamps Made Closer to Home" that mentioned due to Dr. Vreman's age, he desired to pass this knowledge to others to save the lives of children long after his life ends on this earth. Dr. Vreman came to WeCare Clinic in the summer of 2024 to educate the staff and board of directors about the phototherapy light and how to produce the lights. With the help of Dr. Vreman,

Harvey Zimmerman has accepted the challenge to produce the phototherapy lights for families. Since Harvey has been building the lights, he has shipped lights in the United States, but to other places such as Canada and Egypt.

The phototherapy lights mentioned and pictured above have been vitally important for Travis Lee Hoover. I had the privilege of visiting with James and Arlene's family at their home one October evening. It was a blessing to see Travis as a vibrant young child playing in the floor toys. It is stories like this that keep myself, staff, and the board of directors motivated to continue growing the reach of WeCare Clinic.

**By: Matthew L. Hunt, Ed.D.**



**Dr. Vreman's visit with Travis in summer of 2024**

## An Update on One of God's Golden Children (cont.)

Greeting to all in Jesus name,

We've been asked to write a little update on Travis Lee Hoover. Two years ago we had a little boy with Crigler-Najjar Syndrome; one of God's golden children. Thanks to the WeCare staff and board they took action and cared enough about us that we were prepared with phototherapy lights and lab work the third day he was born. All labs were at a normal range, so we prayed to God to direct our paths as we tried to settle into a normal routine with this new genetic condition at our home. We were the first family and patient at WeCare with Crigler-Najjar Syndrome.

So we went from testing his bilirubin levels every two weeks, then weaning to every month, and so on till just every six months. Of course we had our normal flus, colds, earaches, and etc. which we went to WeCare Clinic only three miles down the road for lab work (many times). Sometimes he was put on antibiotics, but always taken care of really well. No hospitalizations in two years. Awesome!

He is now two years old in August, so we went through an evaluation at Nashville and on September 1, 2025, we were put on the active list for a liver transplant. So we'll wait on the Lord and take one day at a time.

WeCare Clinic has been a wonderful addition to this community, so let's all pitch in and help each other on this pilgrim journey!

Sincerely,

James Hoover



Travis at an early visit at WeCare Clinic



Travis at a recent visit at WeCare Clinic



Travis in October 2025

## 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.



## Fundraiser Auction a Success



The board of directors and staff at WeCare Clinic want to thank everyone involved in the fundraiser auction that took place at Bluegrass Sales Stables on October 3-4, 2025. Without the support provided at the fundraiser auction, we would not be able to do what we do at WeCare Clinic. Countless hours were spent spreading the word about the 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.



## Financial Overview - January to October 2025

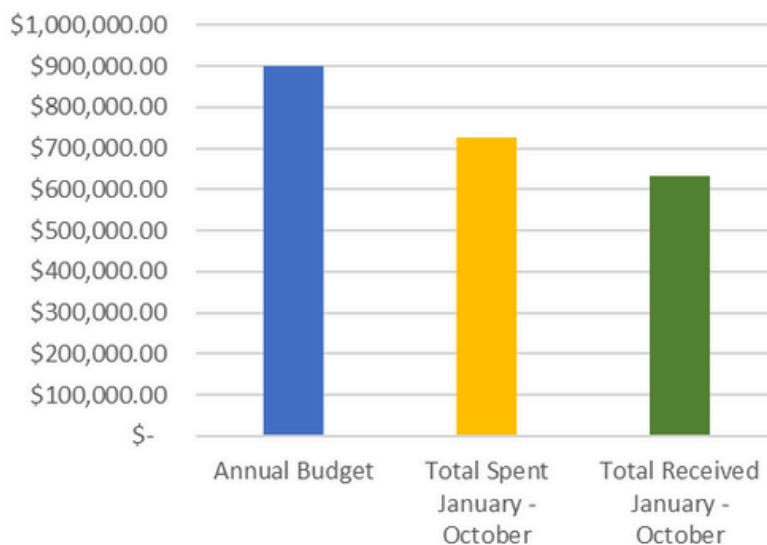
WeCare Clinic has collected \$631,348.52 in revenue through fundraising efforts and clinic revenue between January and October. Year to date expenses were \$727,081.28 resulting in a current operating deficit of \$95,732.76

[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.

### 2025 Financial Review January-October



### August-October Revenue (Donations and Clinic Fees)



## **2026 Outreach Clinics**

January 27 - Munfordville

February 10 - Casey County

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.

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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.***

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

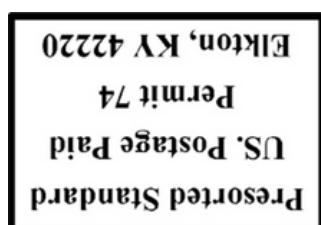
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

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  
Pembroke, KY 42266

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WeCare Clinic

