



BERKS FREE MEDICAL CLINIC

Compassionate care for the uninsured

Annual Report
February 2024

New Name, New Look

To better reflect our service to all of Berks County and to celebrate our opening of the clinic in Reading, Western Berks Free Medical Clinic is now simply Berks Free Medical Clinic. And what is better than having a new name?! Having a new look to go with it, too! Berks Free Medical Clinic is so grateful to Scott Hertzog, President of Rock the Fish LLC Companies, for his creation of our new logo and tagline, *Compassionate care for the uninsured*. Look for our new logo on our updated website and follow us on Facebook to keep up with all that is happening at Berks Free Medical Clinic. We hope you are as excited as we are with all the changes!

Clinic Staff Spotlight

Francheska Lopez joined the staff this past May as Clinic Coordinator of the Reading Clinic. Born in Puerto Rico, Francheska moved to Berks County when she was seven years old. She graduated from Reading High School and went on to study at Alvernia University earning a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Criminal Justice. Fluent in English and Spanish, she provides the clinic with a better outreach to the Hispanic Community. She handles the scheduling for both clinic locations, provides interpreting services, and manages the social media accounts, just to name a few. When not at the clinic, Francheska enjoys traveling, watching movies, and spending time with her niece. Her most recent trip was to Europe this past November. Francheska joined Berks Free Medical Clinic to help her community and is excited to be a part of providing care to those who do not have health insurance and might not otherwise have access to care.



Kathleen Buchhalter, BSN, RN, CAPA, was hired as the Nursing Coordinator in December 2022. She is a graduate of the former Geisinger Medical Center School of Nursing and later obtained her BSN through the Chamberlain College of Nursing. Kathy retired from Reading Hospital in November 2022 after 15 years of service. She was looking for a part-time job and a way to give back to her community, saying the nursing coordinator position has been an answer to her prayers. By overseeing the volunteer nurses and clinical operations at both clinic locations, Kathy provides patients with continuity of care. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, reading, knitting, and spending time with her family. Kathy is the proud mother of a daughter and two sons and the grandmother of eight!

Reading Clinic Opening

On August 29, 2023, we held our first clinic at the new Reading location followed by a formal open house and ribbon cutting ceremony on October 17, 2023. We would like to thank the following organizations for their generous grants that enabled us to extend our outreach: Berks County Commissioners for the "American Rescue Plan" Grant; Highmark Foundation for the "Improving Capacity for Pennsylvania's Free Clinics" Grant; and United Way of Berks County for the "Venture Grant".



2023 IMPACT SNAPSHOT

Volume

- ◆ 724 hours of clinic care provided
- ◆ 247 total patient visits
- ◆ 127 patients, including 62 new patients, cared for
- ◆ 49 referrals to Tower Health for *free* imaging services
- ◆ 173 referrals to Tower Health for *free* lab tests

Leading Diagnoses

- ◆ Hypertension: 46%
- ◆ Diabetes: 17%

Demographics

- ◆ 97% of patients live in Berks County
- ◆ 28% from western Berks communities
- ◆ 52% from the City of Reading

\$82,858

of free care provided
to our patients

Berks Free Medical Clinic is an independent 501(c)3 charitable organization. We receive no federal or state government dollars through the Medicare or Medical Assistance programs, nor do we receive any reimbursements from any insurance companies. Since 2002, every service has been provided to our patients at no charge by our volunteers.



Berks Free Medical Clinic is a proud member of the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics and the Free Clinic Association of PA and recipient of the 2023 Silver Rating for NAFC Quality Standards Program



With Deepest Appreciation

Our ability to efficiently transform donated dollars into compassionate health care for the estimated 10% of our neighbors without health insurance is possible because of the ongoing support of these special friends and colleagues:

Congregation of St. Daniel's Lutheran Church, Robesonia: since helping establish the Clinic as a separate nonprofit in 2002, the congregation continues to provide: clinical and office space, including utilities, at no cost; proceeds from special fundraising efforts; and leadership through its delegate on our Board of Directors.

Mary's Shelter, Reading: provided the renovations of the clinical and office space, including utilities, at no cost for the new satellite location that opened in August 2023.

Dr. David B. O'Rourke: for his generous donation of exam tables and equipment, as well as office furniture and equipment to assist us in furnishing the Reading Clinic.

Tower Health/Reading Hospital: provides free laboratory and imaging services and advanced health services through its specialty clinics for our patients; supports our Tower Health physician volunteers by extending their liability coverage; and extends our provider resources through primary care residency training opportunities.

Drexel University College of Medicine at Tower Health: provides medical students for the development and implementation of our social determinants of health program and supervised clinical experiences.

Volunteers: our corps of 35 clinical and administrative volunteers are the faces, hands, and hearts of BFMC both to our patients and within our community.

Our Heartfelt Acknowledgement

Rev. and Mrs. Carl R. Adams
Anthony Arana

Dr. and Mrs. D. Michael Baxter
William and Dawn Baxter

Paula Benson

Berks County Commissioners

Berks County Medical Society Alliance

John Betson

Blue Mountain Foundation

Deborah Bossler

Mr. and Mrs. Ian Colahan

Mr. and Mrs. J. Gregory Colahan

Richard and Anita Colahan

Mr. and Mrs. Sean Colahan

Conrad Weiser Chapter O.E.S.

Barbara and Fred Davis

Dr. Nipa Doshi

Stacie Dreibelbis

First Reformed Church, Wernersville

Anne Fisher

Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church Oley

Mary Ann George

Giovanna Giannotti

Peter Heim

Rev. and Mrs. Wayne Heintzelman

Henry Janssen Foundation

Highmark Foundation

Kay Kauffman

Carol Kerstetter

Dr. and Mrs. Steve Kochu

Janice Kraft

Karen Krick

Russel Lis

Dr. Alex Massengale

Cheryl Moody

AnnMarie Nawoczinski

Patient First

Pennsylvania Medical Society Foundation

Carol Peters

Marian Pounder

Debra Powell

Reading Monthly Meeting of Friends

Jeremy Reimenschneider

Linda Rentschler

Anne Rinehimer

Karen Roberts

Elaine and Harrold Schappel

Carole and Jay Schmehl

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church, Reading

Shirley Showalter

Rodney and Lori Small

St. Daniel's Lutheran Church, Robesonia

St. John's (Hain's) UCC Church,

Wernersville

St. John's Lutheran Church, Mohnton

St. John's Lutheran Church, Sinking Spring

James and Christine Sterganos

Sheila Stewart

Charles and JoAnn Swingholm

Nancy Swope

Trinity Evan. Lutheran Church, Robesonia

Trinity Evan. Lutheran Church, Wernersville

United Church of Christ of Robesonia

United Way of Berks County

James Walker

Barbara Waller

Wendie Waschitsch and Jim Homan

Alan Wilson

Antoinette Wiswesser

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Wright, Jr.

Gifts Received in Memory of:

The Reverend Edward W. Cloughen ♦ Betty Kline ♦ Anna and Lloyd Krick ♦ Eric A. Schmehl

2024 Board of Directors: Nipa Doshi, MD, Medical Director ♦ Cheryl Moody, MSN, RN, CCRN, President ♦ Anthony Arana, Vice President ♦ Maddie Hertzog, MBA, PHR, Secretary ♦ Michael Rossi, Treasurer ♦ Dawn Baxter ♦ D. Michael Baxter, MD ♦ Aqsa N. Chaudhry, MD, MBA ♦ Ernesto Sanchez, Eng. ♦ Barbara Waller ♦ Eugene York, MD

Clinic Staff: J. Gregory Colahan, MBA, Executive Director ♦ Kathleen Buchhalter, BSN, RN, CAPA, Nursing Coordinator ♦ Stacie Dreibelbis, Administrative Director ♦ Francheska Lopez, Clinic Coordinator