

HEALTH HOPE OPPORTUNITY

Get on Board with Mobile Vision

Cherry Health's bright and beautiful new mobile vision clinic is on the road visiting schools and clinics to provide services to harder-to-reach populations! It enables our clinicians to perform comprehensive eye examinations with equipment and materials readily on hand at all times. Avoiding the need to setup, tear down, and relocate equipment for each service site, the mobile clinic is already enhancing the effectiveness of our traveling school-linked program – bringing the standard for vision health into the communities we serve.

Undiagnosed vision problems can impact learning in a big way. Visual learning and visual thinking (where learners understand and retain information by associating ideas as well as words with images) is responsible for 80% of classroom learning. Unfortunately, one in four children in the U.S. has a vision problem, leaving those children at a major disadvantage.

Dr. Kevin Bos, a Cherry Health optometrist, shared a first-hand account of his experience with Sara, an elementary school student. When he told her she needed glasses, her eyes welled up with tears and her



bubbly personality turned quiet. She definitely did not want glasses.

“Let me show you something,” Dr. Bos said. He put Sara’s prescription into a trial frame and fired up a movie that is used to keep kids’ attention during an exam. “Let’s say you want to watch a movie – do you want to watch the movie like this? Or like this?” Dr. Bos asked as he held up the prescription. “But wait a second,” he continued as he directed Sara to look outside, “Imagine you’re outside, and you want to see the squirrel in the tree. Do you want to look at it like this? Or like this?” She immediately perked up. “I think you’ll really like to wear them after you get them,” Dr. Bos said. “Now, do you want to pick out a pair of glasses?”

With Sara’s tears gone and a smile on her face, she picked out a new pair of glasses which would be delivered to her school in a few weeks.

Community support makes Sara’s story possible. From the purchase, refitting, and deployment of our mobile vision clinic to dispensing glasses free of charge or at very little cost to those in need, we could not do it without the generosity of donors to Cherry Health Foundation.

All Roads Lead to Cherry Health



Brenna and Jon Reimink are passionate about supporting Cherry Health. Their path to engagement came in four different and distinctive ways. Their first introduction was in 2022 as refugee foster parents when a young mother and her one-year-old child from Honduras moved into their home. They each arrived with medical and behavioral health needs. The Reiminks needed to learn quickly about available community resources and thankfully, another foster parent recommended Cherry Health. Here at Cherry Health, a team of doctors and behavioral health specialists came together with a care plan for both mother and child.

“When you become a foster parent in the refugee space, you’re very aware that basic needs become very important,” Brenna said. “Cherry Health connects people who are not connected and, at times, have nowhere else to go.”

Soon thereafter, the Reiminks attended Cherry Health Celebration, Cherry Health Foundation’s fall fundraising event, at the invitation of friends. Through the event program, they learned of needs that existed and the opportunity to join Cherry Health on the journey to improve the lives of underserved members of our community. They were moved to give. Jon explained, “Cherry Health aligns with our family’s passion; if we are able to help, we most certainly want to.”

Additionally, a chance encounter with a neighbor who is very engaged with Cherry Health, plus Jon’s employment with Wolverine Building Group, a major Cherry Health donor, gave the Reiminks clear indication that, for them, “all roads lead to Cherry Health!”

They gladly support Cherry Health’s “drive to seek out and provide services for those who are most in need in our community” and appreciate “how responsibly Cherry Health utilizes resources.”

Urgent Dental Care Expands in Grand Rapids

Thanks to a groundswell of community support, Cherry Health’s Belknap Commons Dental Center has reopened to offer urgent walk-in care, starting two evenings per week. The need for such a dedicated care site was identified after serving several thousand walk-ins at our various sites each year. With a robust community need for prescheduled care appointments, those with acute dental pain or damage previously had to wait or return another day.



The re-envisioned Belknap Commons became a reality thanks to these generous supporters:

- Delta Dental Foundation
- Mike & Sue Jandernoa
- The Carls Foundation
- The O’Donovan Family Foundation
- The Sebastian Fund at GRCF
- David & Carol Van Andel Family Foundation
- Frey Foundation
- The Steve & Amy Van Andel Foundation
- The Noble Family Foundation
- Bill & India Manns
- Dr. Harvey J. De Maagd
- additional donors to Cherry Health Foundation

Team Approach to Affordable Care



Cherry Health's Health Insurance Assistance (HIA) Team is that and so much more. Our knowledgeable staff of Community Health Workers (CHWs) at six Cherry Health sites alleviate barriers to health and wellness for our patients plus other community members. The free insurance assistance they offer guides and connects individuals with Medicaid, Medicare, or Marketplace coverage to ensure health care is affordable and accessible for all. In 2023 alone, Cherry Health's HIA Team assisted nearly 24,000 of our neighbors – 95% of whom were uninsured or underinsured.

Additionally, HIA works to navigate other needs such as food assistance, childcare, help with emergency utility shut-off notices, and application assistance for Section 8 housing and WIC (the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children).

Navigating health insurance can be very challenging, and for some, the challenge includes a language barrier. Cherry Health offers remote interpreter services in over 240 languages and even has a team member fluent in Poqomchi', a Mayan dialect spoken in Guatemala. This is yet another example of how our HIA Team is positioned to assist the populations we serve.

Team members regularly participate in community events to deepen their connections and share information about Cherry Health. They love meeting our neighbors at block parties, school-based activities, and farmers markets, plus health and wellness events. And they are always pleased when it results in later assisting a person or family they met at a community function.

HIA's work was exemplified recently when a patient was about to lose Medicaid coverage one week before their medication, retailing for \$1,500, was to be refilled. **Our team quickly assisted with the Medicaid renewal process so that this patient did not miss a dose, with the prescription then fully covered by Medicaid.**



The important work done by our HIA Team has a very direct and positive impact on how far gifts to Cherry Health Foundation are able to go. Since donations are often used to fill financial gaps in patient care, when our HIA Team assists in accessing all the insurance benefits for which patients qualify, there are fewer gaps to fill.

Bright Futures, Healthy Families

Welcoming a new family member inspires hopes and dreams for the future – and brings about many changes! Navigating the needs of a baby, childhood, and beyond can seem overwhelming, but Consumers Credit Union offers resources and planning tools to help along the way, such as podcasts at www.consumerscu.org/podcast.

“We support programs and services that meet young families where they are because financial needs evolve as families grow. From the often-unexpected expenses of a new baby to setting up a youth account to applying for Consumers Scholarships for high school seniors, Consumers Credit Union helps families maintain financial health throughout every age and stage of life,” says Lynne Jarman-Johnson, Chief Marketing Officer.

“Investing in local organizations like Cherry Health also helps build a thriving, healthy community for every generation. Supporting accessible, affordable health care is essential for health and financial well-being.”

— Lynne Jarman-Johnson

Consumers Credit Union is a valued partner that provides financial support to Cherry Health while also offering real-world banking solutions and resources for our patients as well as staff.

Get Involved in the Mission!



Give online at cherryhealth.org/donate.



Use the enclosed envelope.



SAVE THE DATE

Cherry Health *Celebration*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024 • 6-8 p.m.
FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS & SCULPTURE PARK
TICKETS \$125

For event sponsorship or other information, contact:
Kat MacDonald | katmacdonald@cherryhealth.com | 616.965.8267



TAKE A TOUR AND SEE
YOUR GIVING IN ACTION!

CHERRY HEALTH'S HEART OF THE CITY
HEALTH CENTER

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024 • 9:45-10:30 a.m.

RSVP by email to foundation@cherryhealth.com
by June 12, 2024

Join us to witness the results of your generosity
in adult medicine, pediatrics, vision, dental,
pharmacy, and more.

BCBS: Thank You for Narcan Vending Machines

Thanks to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan for funding the purchase and deployment of two additional Narcan vending machines at Cherry Health's Southside and Westside health centers. Narcan is a nasal spray medication designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose by blocking the brain's uptake of opioids by safely replacing them. It is important to understand that if someone is given Narcan without the overdose, there is nothing to worry about. It has no effect or side effect on people who have no opioid drugs in their system.

According to Mike Rocklin, Southside Health Center's Site Manager, 120 kits went into the community in the first three weeks of having the machine on site! There are two Narcan sprays in each kit, so, in a short time, 240 doses went into our community. Mike reported, "While I'm filling the machine, clients have thanked me profusely – telling me how great it is that we installed the machine and how much we care about our clients." We believe that Narcan vending machines are already saving lives. In February 2024, the Kent County Health Department reported 109 drug overdose deaths might have been avoided with access to Narcan.

Concerned citizens may pick up a Narcan kit to have on hand in case of a known or suspected opioid overdose. You never know when or where you might be able to save a life!

Kits are available free of charge at the following Cherry Health sites:

- **Heart of the City Health Center**
100 Cherry St SE, Grand Rapids
- **Southside Health Center**
2303 Kalamazoo Ave SE, Grand Rapids
- **Westside Health Center**
669 Stocking Ave NW, Grand Rapids
- **Montcalm Area Health Center**
1003 N Lafayette St, Greenville



100 Cherry Street SE / Grand Rapids MI 49503

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