

# HEALTH HOPE OPPORTUNITY

## Walk-in Behavioral Health Urgent Care Now Open

Cherry Health recently opened the Behavioral Health Access Center & Urgent Care within our Heart of the City Health Center in downtown Grand Rapids. This walk-in space is the first point of contact for those with urgent mental health needs and, for many, is the first step toward healing. When someone is feeling depressed and overwhelmed, they need a professional who can meet them where they are and help support them on their journey. And they need that connection right away.

Upon entry, individuals meet with a Behavioral Health Clinician and a Community Health Worker. Evaluations are performed to identify their mental health needs as well as schedule referrals for other Cherry Health services and community resources. Cherry Health's seamless approach to caring for the whole person and offering hope and healing is exemplified by Lewis and his son Jakob, who came to the Access Center on the recommendation of a friend.

Jakob previously suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in a car accident. He came to the Access Center angry. Lewis had spent the last year seeking help for his son elsewhere and faced a stream of unreturned phone calls

and appointments scheduled too far into the future. He was feeling hopeless. Jakob needed help now.

On their first visit to the Access Center, Jakob met with a Behavioral Health Clinician who evaluated his mental health needs, then scheduled an appointment as well as referrals to other Cherry Health services. For Jakob, this included a primary care provider and dental and physical therapy appointments. The Community Health Worker connected Jakob to resources and, together, they made plans to address his addiction and housing needs.

When Jakob left the Access Center, he broke down in tears in the elevator. For the first time, he felt seen, heard, and hopeful that he was beginning his path to healing.



Thanks to generous donor support, innovative Cherry Health programs such as this have become a reality. The Access Center can be reached at  
**616.965.0304.**

# Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Cherry Health is very appreciative of the ongoing generosity of our faith-based partners. Several of these congregations shared why they support the community through Cherry Health.

## Westminster Presbyterian Church 🍷 Grand Rapids

We support Cherry Health because we are neighbors! We're in this together, and we know that the services offered at Cherry Health make a difference in the physical and mental well-being of our underserved community in and around the Heartside neighborhood and in our schools. Cherry Health is working toward a healthy, whole community that benefits everyone!

All of Cherry Health's services are needed and important, but we would lift up their behavioral health resources. It is often not financially accessible for many folks, so Cherry Health offers their clients a sliding scale fee. Their walk-in clinic is a model of care that meets the needs of our Heartside neighbors. Also, we love that the onsite health centers and traveling programs offer services in the Grand Rapids Public Schools, including behavioral health. It helps promote good health outcomes for our youth.

Thank you to Cherry Health for your presence and dedication to providing quality care to ALL people in need, without discrimination.

## Park Congregational Church 🍷 Grand Rapids

Park Church supports Cherry Health because of its close proximity to our Heartside neighbors. Throughout the pandemic, family members of several of our congregants were greatly helped by Cherry Health. Cherry Health was asked to do a virtual presentation for the congregation so everyone could learn about their services. Our congregation was moved to support Cherry Health in any way possible, and it has continued to this day.

When we wanted our Almsgiving focus to be on Cherry Health, I found their breadth of services overwhelming. Through meeting with their staff, we identify a different focus area, and our congregation then learns even more about Cherry Health and feels connected.

Through our partnership with Cherry Health over the years, we have found the work they do and the services they provide for our community to be invaluable. They are continually identifying what is needed in our community and implementing a plan to meet that need.



*Park Church members created and assembled nearly 200 wound kits for unhoused Cherry Health patients receiving behavioral health services.*

## Grace for the Nations Church 🍷 Grand Rapids

Grace for the Nations Church first learned about Cherry Health when Pastor Tarence Lauchie and his wife, Lady Eva Lauchie, met Tasha Blackmon, Cherry Health's President & CEO. Following that encounter, the COVID-19 pandemic changed our lives. Grace prayed for the well-being of the front-line workers and wanted to make a tangible impact. They recognized the sheer number of essential medical workers in our community and how grit, determination, and fear accompanied them on every shift.

On a cold Saturday in December, their congregation prepared and served a hot meal for the Heart of the City Health Center staff. Dr. Jenny Bush, Cherry Health Chief Medical Officer, recalls that, at such a challenging and emotional time, the staff felt warmth and joy knowing their community appreciated the work they were doing.

Grace chose to support Cherry Health because of shared values. They want to support an organization that reduces disparities in health and wellness access, brings hope, and has an impact.



# See What Your Gifts Have Done

Spunky 7-year-old Catilaya entered Cherry Health's Heart of the City Health Center bursting with life and joy. With her came an unfilled, substantial corrective vision prescription. Through our partnership with the Grand Rapids Lions Club to help provide eye exams, glasses, and other vision-related services to underserved populations, Optician Derrick Coombs helped Catilaya find the perfect frames. They fit her bubbly personality as she danced and spun in circles.

Despite her extreme nearsightedness and low vision, Catilaya clearly saw so much beauty in the world. Derrick was thrilled that Cherry Health was able to give her a pair of glasses she loved wearing so that she will be able to experience even more of what the world has to offer.

Additionally, Cherry Health offers Teleretinal imaging, having purchased retinal cameras for five of our medical centers. This non-invasive screening process uses a special camera to examine the back of the eye. This camera is often used for early detection of diabetic retinopathy and other eye conditions such as glaucoma, macular degeneration, and retinal detachment. It can even detect high blood pressure and some forms of cancer. Being able to perform this screening within the medical center eliminates the need for patients to schedule a separate vision appointment. Early detection can be the key to successful treatment, management of chronic conditions, and even lifesaving intervention.

Last year, our vision-based clinicians saw patients during 12,337 appointments, treated 2,307 students at their schools, and dispensed 10,253 pairs of glasses.

Cherry Health Vision now offers routine and specialty contact lenses as well as walk-in, no-appointment-needed care. Visit [cherryhealth.org/services/vision](https://cherryhealth.org/services/vision) for more information.

## See the Mission in Action



### Want to experience Cherry Health's mission up close?

Join us for a small group tour of our Heart of the City Health Center in Grand Rapids.

Schedule by contacting:

**Kathy Lipnicki**

Annual Giving Manager

[kathylipnicki@cherryhealth.com](mailto:kathylipnicki@cherryhealth.com)

C. 616.581.7921



## Get Involved in the Mission!



Give online at [cherryhealth.org/donate](https://cherryhealth.org/donate).

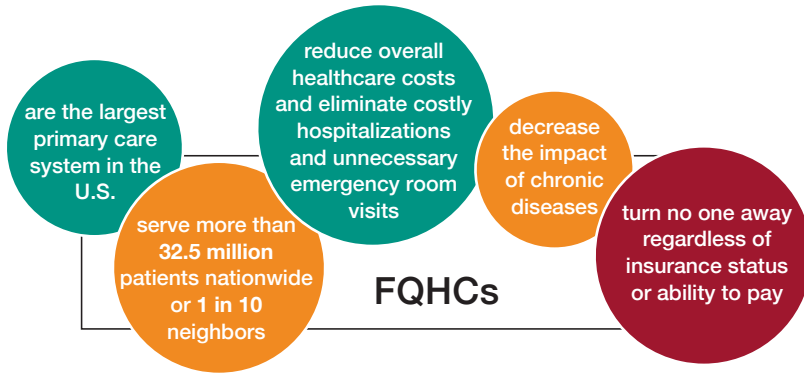


Use the enclosed envelope.



# What is a Federally Qualified Health Center?

You have often heard Cherry Health referred to as a **Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)**, but what does that actually mean? Cherry Health is a community-based healthcare organization that provides comprehensive primary care and support services to underserved populations.



Currently, FQHCs, including Cherry Health, have concerns due to proposed cuts to Medicaid funding. Approximately 49% of Cherry Health's nearly 58,000 patients are Medicaid recipients. Medicaid is a vital source of care for these individuals and, therefore, an important source of funding for FQHCs. If Cherry Health patients were to lose their Medicaid coverage, the number of uninsured patients, and thereby unreimbursed care costs, would increase greatly.

To learn more about and advocate for FQHCs like Cherry Health:

**VISIT** [mpca.net/advocacy/become-an-advocate](https://mpca.net/advocacy/become-an-advocate) to sign up for alerts from the Michigan Primary Care Association (MPCA) or [hcadvocacy.org](https://hcadvocacy.org) to sign up for advocacy alerts from the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC).

**CONTACT** your elected officials to share with them why you believe providing accessible health and wellness services is vital to the collective health of our communities.

**GIVE** to assist Cherry Health in reducing health disparities and advancing longer, healthier lives. Donate online at [cherryhealth.org/donate](https://cherryhealth.org/donate), text [cherrycares](https://cherrycares.org) to 50155, or scan the QR code to support our neighbors whose continued well-being should not be in jeopardy.



# Thank You!

## to our 2025 Comprehensive Sponsors

Thank you to our 2025 Comprehensive Sponsors! Their compassionate support of community health enables Cherry Health to further advance longer, healthier lives and reduce health disparities.

- Acrisure
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- Varnum LLP
- West Michigan Asian American Association

### Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from a traditional IRA

are a terrific tax-advantaged method of donating if you are 70 ½ or older. Such gifts qualify towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) while avoiding income tax and directly impacting the mission you value. Because Cherry Health Foundation is a supporting organization of Cherry Health, IRS rules state that **QCDs must be made payable to Cherry Street Services, Inc.** (DBA Cherry Health; EIN 38-2853534). Please inform your charitable giving advisor of this requirement.



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