

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

OREGON FREE & CHARITABLE CLINIC CONSORTIUM



"When you know one free clinic deeply and well, you know one free clinic." Each of Oregon's free and charitable clinics is unique and different from every other free or charitable clinic. The clinics are a product of and response to the health care needs of the local community and the patient population being served. Some clinics serve almost exclusively Spanish speakers, some serve other languages, races and ethnicities. The care and services provided run the gamut.



What each clinic has in common with the others is a strong commitment to serving the most vulnerable patients in their community, providing a mixture of uncompensated care, reduced fee care or billing when a revenue stream is available. Ability to pay is not an issue for any patient receiving care in a free or charitable clinic.

OVERVIEW -

Free and Charitable Clinics in Oregon are part of the fabric of care nationally to assure that our most vulnerable patients have access to needed health care services.

2021 Statistics for the ORCC Consortium

- Over 6,400 unique patients
- Over 22,000 visits
- 190 different clinical providers
- An average of over 20 hours of clinical services/week
- Over 50% of patients are non-English speakers with Spanish being the dominant language
- Other languages include: Russian, Vietnamese, Arabic, various Latin American Indigenous Languages, Tagalog/Filipino and others.
- Most patients live at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$27,750 for a family of 4)

In 2021, the Free and Charitable Clinics of Oregon rebounded to near pre-pandemic levels of care and services. In addition to traditional in-person care, telehealth continues to be available in some clinics.

The Oregon Free and Charitable Clinic Consortium started to build relationships with our local leaders and elected officials as well as key leaders in the local and state public health arena. We worked together to communicate our story to our local officials in response to the ARPA, with some clinics receiving financial support to address the challenges brought on by COVID.

Access to medications continues to be a challenge for our patients. Some free clinics have a Charitable Pharmacy, some assist patients in applying to PAPs (Pharmacy Assistance Programs), some have a limited formulary, some have contract relationships with local pharmacies for low cost and generic medications.

Our Patients

Elizabeth became a patient in 2007 when she became unemployed due to the changed timber industry. She needed an MRI to diagnose a rare and aggressive form of cancer which resulted in surgery and radiation treatment. With the assistance of the free clinic and her amazing and dedicated providers, she fully recovered. She relocated back to the area after one of our wildfires and was placed at the clinic to provide help to others seeking care. "I'm a walking victory, she says, "the free clinic basically gave me my life and my leg."



George, a Vietnam War Veteran, needed a number of teeth pulled in order to get dentures. He could no longer eat solid food due to the pain: some of his broken teeth would cut the inside of his cheek. His physical health was impacted by the lack of dental health care. A Free Dental Clinic and a volunteer dentist were able to safely extract 12 teeth in November, 2021. After an appropriate time to assure George's mouth was healed, he was able to get a pair of dentures.



For more information, contact Sallie Neillie at sneillie@gmail.com

OREGON FREE AND CHARITABLE CLINICS

Borland Free Clinic* –Stafford/Tualatin. www.borlandclinic.org

Caring Hands Worldwide* – OR via volunteer days in mobile clinics. www.caringhandsworldwide.org

Clackamas Volunteers in Medicine* – Clackamas County. www.clackamasvim.org

Good News Community Health Center – Rockwood/East Multnomah County. www.goodnewschc.org

La Clinica De Neustra Senora de Guadalupe* – Salem.

North by Northeast Community Health Center – Portland. www.nxneclinic.org

Salem Free Clinics* – Marion and Polk Counties. www.salemfreeclinics.org

Volunteers in Medicine – Cascades* – Bend, Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook Counties. www.vim-cascades.org

Volunteers in Medicine Clinic of Lane County* – Springfield and Lane County. www.vim-clinic.org

* Data included in this report