
Helping Hands Across Monroe County

More than 47 million Americans lack health insurance. While some qualify for medical assistance programs, many others “fall through the cracks.”

In our county of over 45,000 people, there are over 6,000 families (14.4%) living below the national poverty level, defined in 2015 as a single person with an annual income of under \$11,770 or a family of four living on less than \$24,250. Many low-income working people cannot afford health insurance nor qualify for public aid.

The St. Clare Health Mission provides basic health care which, if neglected, can result in even more costly long-term care. Since 1996, over 25,000 hours of professional volunteer services have made possible more than 11,000 patient visits.

The focus of the Health Mission is on treatment of acute and chronic problems, as well as preventative care. Educational materials are also available.

The name “Clare” comes from the Latin word for “bright.” In the 16th century, an Italian woman named Clare of Assisi established a contemplative religious order, which came to be known as “The Poor Clares.” St. Clare, who did much of her teaching from a window in the convent wall, was sought out by the sick because of her powers of healing.

Like the Poor Clares who were dependent upon alms, the St. Clare Health Mission is dependent upon the generosity of individuals, corporations, churches, and service clubs.

Financial needs are ongoing. Donations may be sent to:

**St. Clare Health Mission
of Monroe County
310 West Main Street
Sparta, WI 54656**

The St. Clare Health Mission is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

For more information concerning gift-giving opportunities, call (608) 366-5343.



A cooperative effort to provide low-cost health care for Monroe County residents who have no health insurance and whose financial status prevents seeking medical treatment.

**Enhancing Health Care
Access in
Monroe County**

A Partnership of Providers

The St. Clare Health Mission of Monroe County opened in 1996 with the support of Mayo Clinic Health System - Franciscan Healthcare in La Crosse, Sparta and Tomah; Gundersen Health System - La Crosse, Sparta, and Tomah Clinics; Scenic Bluffs Community Centers in Cashton and Norwalk; and the Monroe County Department of Health and Human Services.

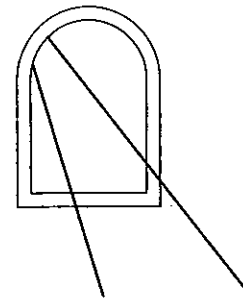
The Health Mission is staffed entirely by volunteers: physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, certified medical assistants, pharmacists, laboratory and x-ray technicians, patient advocates, social workers, clerical personnel, and transcriptionists. Spanish speaking interpreters serve the Hispanic community.

Monroe County churches and service clubs provide lunches for the volunteers, many whom arrive after having worked a full day at their regular jobs.

The St. Clare Health Mission of Monroe County is located in the Specialty Services area of Franciscan Skemp - Sparta Campus, 310 West Main Street, Sparta (parking lot entrance), phone (608) 366-5343.

The Health Mission is open on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Registration begins at 5:00 pm and continues until 6:30 pm. Patients are seen on a walk-in basis and not by appointment.

Service is limited to Monroe County residents who are ineligible for public or private insurance. Proof of residency and financial need are required. An intake worker provides referral and guidance support to those who appear to be eligible for Medical Assistance, Medicaid, Healthy Start, BadgerCare, or other public programs.



Prescriptions issued by Health Mission providers can be filled at the Health Mission pharmacy.

The cost of medications provided by the Health Mission pharmacy averages \$60,000 per year. In addition Mayo Clinic Health System - Franciscan Healthcare, where the Health Mission is housed, provides and absorbs tens of thousands of dollars annually in technical services.

Specialized care referrals are provided when needed, alternating between Mayo Clinic Health System - Franciscan Healthcare and Gundersen Health System in La Crosse.

The Health Mission is not intended to duplicate existing programs. Those who have access to alternative services should continue to use those services.

“The health of people is really the foundation upon which all their happiness and all their powers as a state depend.”

– Benjamin Disraeli, 1887