One Health Clinic Celebrates One Year Anniversary!

In October, One Health Clinic — a partnership with University of Washington Center for One Health, Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, New Horizons and Neighborcare Health — celebrated its first year of caring for youth experiencing homelessness and their animal companions. One Health Clinic is an extension of the services provided at Youth Clinic at New Horizons.

Some highlights from One Health Clinic’s first year include:
- 20 One Health Clinic nights held at New Horizons in Belltown during dinner drop-in time
- 76 human patients and 33 animal patients treated
- 14 human patients have visited more than once, which is high for this demographic

A combination of veterinary students from WSU, U District Street Medicine volunteers (medical students & residents, social work students), UW One Health staff, and Neighborcare Health staff and volunteers have participated at each clinic night.

Partners receive an orientation and a brief training on harm reduction and trauma-informed care before each clinic.

The clinic was started after it was identified that many young people experiencing homelessness were not getting health care because there was no place for their pets to go during their appointments. The One Health Clinic eliminates that barrier by providing side-by-side medical and veterinary services for young people ages 18–26 and their pets. On clinic days, veterinary students from WSU and volunteers from UW Center for One Health work closely with a Neighborcare Health provider to make it possible for both human and animal patients to get the care they need. So far, the One Health Clinic has succeeded in increasing the number of patients seen at New Horizons, including patients who are returning for follow-up care, were not previously seeking care, or were difficult to engage in health care.

One Health Clinic is open twice a month. Human medical services are the same as the services offered by Youth Clinic at New Horizons. Veterinary care includes wellness check-ups, vaccinations, treatments for common conditions, flea and tick preventative medication, and certificates for free spay or neuter services. Visit One Health Clinic on Facebook to learn more about services and upcoming clinic dates.

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Reaching More Patients through Innovative Partnerships

Neighborhood Health at Magnuson

This August, Neighborhood Health opened a small clinic with one exam room and one behavioral health office in Mercy Magnuson Place, a new 150-unit low-income housing development in Magnuson Park near Sand Point. The clinic offers medical and behavioral health services, insurance assistance, and referrals to dental and specialist services to building residents and neighboring low-income housing residents three days a week.

Formerly homeless residents at Solid Ground’s Sand Point Housing shared their enthusiasm about the new clinic at a community meeting in March. Due to the location, residents currently have limited access to basic services, such as grocery stores, pharmacies and health care. One resident shared that they travel to Renton every week to get behavioral health care. Another resident said that it will be a great relief to know they can bring their children to the clinic if they feel sick.

Tamara Brown, the program manager at Sand Point Housing, shared that many residents have become reliant on emergency services because of the lack of accessible health care, and feels that the community will greatly benefit from the new clinic.

“Residents call 9-1-1 for an ambulance because they have no other way of getting to the doctor,” said Tamara. “Having the clinic close by will help people break the habit of going to the ER every time they need care.”

Construction on Mercy Magnuson Place was completed at the end of June. The building also includes access to Magnuson Park, a community event space, and a Denise Louie Education Center to provide early learning and support services to families.

Neighborhood Health Dental at Providence St. Peter

In early October, Neighborhood Health partnered with Providence St. Peter Hospital to open a dental clinic in Olympia. Neighborhood Health Dental at Providence St. Peter Hospital is a collaboration that will open the door to dental care for many patients, especially those covered by insurance through Apple Health (Medicaid). The clinic will also be the future home of the Providence St. Peter Dental Residency program. Neighborhood Health Dental at Providence St. Peter is the first Neighborhood Health clinic to be opened outside of King County.

“The landscape of health care in Seattle is rapidly changing, and it is important for Neighborhood Health to go where the need is the greatest,” says Neighborhood Health CEO Michael Erikson. “The population we strive to serve is not confined to Seattle city limits, and working in partnership with Providence to expand into Southwest Washington is an opportunity to further Neighborhood Health’s mission and meet our patients where they are.”

Opening this clinic is part of a larger effort to find a primary health care home for patients who have been going to the emergency department (ED) for dental care. Demand for dental care at the Providence St. Peter Hospital ED is high, with 7–10 emergency dental patients seen each day. The new Neighborhood Health dental clinic is located on the same campus as the ED, and will be well positioned to provide greater service to patients with dental emergencies.

“Many patients rely on St. Peter Hospital’s emergency services for dental care because few dental providers in the region accept Apple Health or provide discounted services,” says Neighborhood Health Chief Dental Officer Sarah Vander Beek. “At the new dental clinic, Apple Health patients in Olympia will get the care they need while also finding a health care home that can help prevent future dental emergencies.”

Neighborhood Health Dental at Providence St. Peter Hospital has seven operatories, and started treating patients in October, four days a week.
Thank You for Making Sure Everyone Has Access to Quality Health Care

Thank you to our many generous supporters in 2019! You have helped us raise $1.4 million this year, making it possible for Neighborcare to provide over 75,000 people with quality health care, regardless of their ability to pay. Thank you for your generous support!

Corporations Giving Back

Polaris at Rainier Beach

This fall, Neighborcare Health received a generous donation from Polaris at Rainier Beach, LLC, a new affordable housing unit being built in the Rainier Valley by Inland Group. “We believe that along with affordable housing, education and health services are the other foundational necessities for families and individuals to thrive,” shared Keith James, Development Lead at Inland Group. “Neighborcare Health’s goal of ‘100% Access, Zero Health Disparities’ matches perfectly our goal of completely serving low-income households in the Rainier Valley.”

Thank you to Inland Group and Polaris at Rainier Beach for joining with Neighborcare Health to make our community stronger and healthier!

Microsoft

In October, the HR Organization at Microsoft invited Neighborcare Health to be part of their October Give Campaign. “I learned about Neighborcare when my sister-in-law started working there, prior to that time I didn’t know anything about Neighborcare or community health care,” said Sarah Vander Beek, HR M&A Coordinator at Microsoft. “I realized that if I did not know about the services Neighborcare offers, then there must be others that were not aware. I wanted to help shed a light on and give others the opportunity to learn about and support Neighborcare as well.”

Thank you to Sarah and the entire HR team at Microsoft for learning more about Neighborcare Health and supporting us during their October Give Campaign!

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— Sarah Vander Beek, HR M&A Coordinator, Microsoft
Top priority:
• Sleeping bags
• Coats
• Warm gloves
• Warm hats
• Tarps
• Boots
• Gift cards—activities (movies), grocery store, prepared food (e.g. Chipotle, Subway)
• Sweatshirts/fleeces

Also helpful for our patients:
• Emergency ponchos
• Hand & feet warmers
• Shampoo & conditioner
• Socks
• Blankets
• Hot chocolate packets

For more info, or to arrange pickup or drop-off, contact Joanna den Haan, 206-548-3875, or joannad@neighborcare.org

Neighborcare Health is the largest provider of primary medical care for people experiencing homelessness in Seattle. In our pursuit of 100% access to health care for everyone in our community, we offer alternative models of care for those who have recently experienced or are experiencing homelessness. The following items are needed to help our patients when they leave our clinic.