Community Health Clinic
10th Anniversary
2008-2018

2008

2018
In October 1998, Jean Purvis was vacationing in Hilton Head, South Carolina, and saw an ad in the local paper that said, “Thank you for a day of caring — Volunteers in Medicine.” As a doctor’s wife, she became curious and visited the Volunteers In Medicine (VIM) clinic. It was there that she learned about Dr. Jack McConnell and how he founded the first VIM clinic in the country.

Jack McConnell was raised in a poor household with six brothers and sisters by loving parents who taught their family the necessity of caring for those less fortunate. In addition to his parents, Jack was deeply inspired by Dr. Albert Schweitzer, a missionary in Africa. Jack noted that Dr. Schweitzer emphasized to those in health care the need to help those who had no access to health care. An event that impacted the young Dr. McConnell was when he offered some hitchhikers a ride and learned that they had no health care or access to any medications.

Dr. McConnell’s research found that the same was true for more than a third of those living on Hilton Head Island. Wondering why no one did anything about the problem, he quickly realized that HE should be that someone. Dr. McConnell recruited retired doctors, nurses, and volunteers to provide their services at no charge and eventually raised enough money to build a state-of-the-art clinic which serves thousands of people each year at no cost. Volunteers in Medicine opened on Hilton Head in 1994 and has been such a success that it became a model for 41 other clinics across the country.

Greatly inspired and motivated by Dr. McConnell’s story and the VIM clinic that she visited in South Carolina, Jean returned home and wasted no time in beginning to make her dream a reality. She contacted longtime friend John Righetti, former vice president of strategic relationship management for Butler Health System, and Dr. Robert McKee. The three became an initial driving force for what was to eventually become the Community Health Clinic of Butler County. Dr. McKee contacted several retired and active physicians and his guidance throughout the beginning stages of planning was invaluable.

Ken Bennett soon joined the team. A newly retired corporate head living in Slippery Rock, Ken brought in a mix of business acumen and community concerns to the table. An incident that impacted Ken was when he met a young woman with a badly swollen jaw caused by an infected wisdom tooth. When he recommended that she have it pulled, she said she couldn’t afford to. This was Ken’s first encounter with the lack of healthcare for so many.

“Everyone there made me feel like a person, they actually care about your health and well being. It’s like everyone who walks through the door is family.” — Male, 58, Cranberry Twp.

“The CHCBC is a very supportive and compassionate place to go.” — Female, 54, Butler City


**Feasibility Time Line and First Board of Directors**

**Feasibility Time Line**

**February 2005**  
Survey population, survey current services, seek professional volunteers.  
Determine initial funding.

**March 2005**  
Develop mission statement and vision statement.  
Develop statement of need.

**May 2005**  
Determine funding feasibility. Jim Cunningham voluntarily conducted a feasibility study and the "Opening the Doors" capital campaign.

**Community Health Clinic of Butler County**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ken Bennett, President</td>
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<td>Rev. Tom Pierson, Vice President, Chair, Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristy Wright, Treasurer/Chair, Business/Finance</td>
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<td>Jean B. Purvis, Secretary/Chair, Board Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Forrythe, Chair, Facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy J. McKee, Co-Chair, Professional Services</td>
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<td>Sheila Grealey, Co-Chair, Professional Services</td>
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<td>Dr. Robert McKee, Honorary Board Member</td>
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<td>Dr. Harry Bielewicz</td>
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<td>John W. Cupps, Human Resources/Business Liaison</td>
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<td>Mark DeBiasio</td>
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<td>Dr. William DiCiccio</td>
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<td>Rev. James Dollhopf</td>
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<td>Betty Gaul</td>
<td>Judge Marilyn Horan</td>
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<td>Lexie Jones</td>
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<td>David Konesni</td>
<td>John E. Koser</td>
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<td>Jennifer Linn</td>
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<td>Cindy Lytle</td>
<td>Glenn Miller</td>
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<td>Dr. Nick Neupauser</td>
<td>Mona Parsons</td>
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<td>James D. Rathfon, D.D.S</td>
<td>Dr. John Reerer</td>
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**Community Health Clinic of Butler County**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-2018**

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>David Konesni, President</td>
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<td>Jim Cunningham, Vice President</td>
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<td>Ernie Francineste, Treasurer</td>
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<td>Jean B. Purvis, Secretary</td>
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<td>Sue Switzer, Assistant Secretary</td>
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<td>Natalie McKay, Co-Chair, Clinical Services</td>
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<td>Judy Connelly</td>
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<td>Dr. William DiCiccio</td>
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<td>Rev. James Dollhopf</td>
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<td>Dr. Edward F. Fink</td>
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<td>Dr. S. Ramsalingam</td>
<td>Morgan Rizzardi</td>
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**Publicity and Open House**

**IT WAS STATEMENTS SUCH AS THESE THAT CRIED OUT NEED FOR A COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC IN BUTLER COUNTY**

- Fewer than 60% of people under the age of 65 had employer-sponsored health insurance in 1987.
- People file for bankruptcy at a rate of one every thirty seconds because of medical bills.
- About 18,000 people die prematurely because they lack health insurance.
- The average employment-based family premium rose 87% from 2000 - 2006.
- A February 21, 2008 article by Associated Press noted that total health care spending would double by 2017.

**October 2005**  
The first meeting of the Organizing Committee for the Community Health Clinic is held.

**November 2005**  
The Butler Eagle includes a supportive article from John L. Wise.

**December 2005**  
Dave Malarkey of WBT does a positive interview with Cece Foster, Executive Director.

**January 2006**  
Post-Gazette North includes a positive article about the Community Health Clinic.

**September 2006**  
A meeting held at Butler Memorial Hospital reviews the business plan and projections for the next twelve months of the CHCBC.

**October 2007**  
Open house held for contractors and their wives.

**November 2007**  
Open house held for community faith-based and health care services.

**December 2007**  
OSHAl walks through the new CHCBC. Phone systems and carpet are installed.

**December 15, 2007**  
Community Open House – Dedication Ceremony — Despite rain, sleet, and snow, 150 attend the open house and dedication ceremony.

**January 2008**  
Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell visits CHCBC.

**October 2008**  
Cece Foster and Fr. Harry Bielewicz present a video about the CHCBC to the Butler Roman Catholic Deanery.

**November 2008**  
Bus route to CHCBC begins.

**May 2009**  
First “Walk for Good Health” held --- 250 participants

**County of Butler proclaims “Community Health Clinic of Butler County Day”**

**June 2009**  
Editorial in the Butler Eagle notes that the Community Health Clinic’s goal of $500,000 is possible without hurting other good causes in the community.

**March 2010**  
An open letter in the Butler Eagle states that the CHCBC is a “godsend.”

**June 2010**  
“Cheers and Jeers” section of the Butler Eagle praises the dental program with its 12 volunteer dentists, 200 completed fillings and 150 minor extractions. Two oral surgeons are handling more extensive procedures.

**July 2010**  
The Butler Eagle — “The Community Health Clinic has compiled a remarkable record of meeting the medical needs of people without insurance. That record has spilled over in a positive way to those needing dental care.”

**July 2013**  
North Hills Monthly — “A medical miracle”

“I am grateful such an organization like this exists. The people I have encountered at the clinic are kind and caring. The CHCBC provides essential lifesaving services to those in need. The people who work there should be proud of the difference they make each and every day.” — Male, 58, Cranberry Twp.

“I came to CHCBC after I was denied Medical Assistance. Everyone is very kind. It is a place where you can feel comfortable and get good medical care.” — Female, 53, Zelienople
### Contributions

**January 2007**  
Butler Health System contributed $200,000 to “Opening New Doors” their special gift campaign. They had previously contributed $17,000 to cover startup costs including printings, mailings, etc.

**June 2007**  
The planners had hoped to raise $750,000 as the base goal, but over $900,000 had already been raised.

**November 2007**  
Lion’s Club International Foundation awarded a $75,000 grant for a comprehensive diabetes care program.

**December 2007**  
Total raised thus far = $1,000,553

**July 2008**  
The Board of Directors of the Community Health Clinic voted to provide leftover building materials to Habitat for Humanity – exemplifying a motto of the clinic, “Neighbors helping neighbors.”

**May 2011**  
A weekend faith-based outreach to the local churches resulted in more than $3000.

**Fiscal 2011**  
$589,518 have been received in grants and contributions.

**July 2012**  
The Community Health Clinic of Butler County received national recognition by the AMA with a grant of $10,000 to continue diabetic education – only one of fifteen awarded in the country.

**January 2013**  
Over $700,000 worth of medications have been obtained for our patients at no cost.

**April 2013**  
American Medical Association awards a $10,000 grant to Community Health Clinic.

**May 2014**  
Pittsburgh Day of Giving, CHCBC received $8,800 with matching funds of $2,267

**December 2015**  
Jim Cunningham named Director of Development.

**September 2017**  
Area Agency on Aging awards a $36,000 grant.

**January 2018**  
John Righetti named Director of Development & Public Relations.

**May 2018**  
AJ and Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust awards a $75,000 grant.

### Medications and Prescription Assistance Program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 15, 2008</td>
<td>The first day that patients were welcomed to the Community Health Clinic of Butler County.</td>
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<td>April 2008</td>
<td>The clinic was averaging twenty five new calls each week. CHCBC was ahead of most clinics in the number of patients seen.</td>
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<td>September 2008</td>
<td>Presently treating 700 patients, adding new patients at the rate of 30 per month.</td>
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<td>June 2009</td>
<td>904 patients have received free health care and medicine during 2200 visits.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2009</td>
<td>First anniversary 1400 patients, 609 visits</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2009</td>
<td>1,071 patients, 2,170 patient visits</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2010</td>
<td>CHCBC cares for 1,096 patients, 800 visits</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2011</td>
<td>1,108 patients</td>
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### Our Patients:

“Health care professionals are reminded that there is no time limit on patient visits. They are to take as much time as necessary.” — Board of Directors.

- **January 2014**: 98% of patients rated their care at CHCBC as “great” or “good.”
- **April 2015**: Top diagnoses: Depression, Hypertension, Anxiety, Tobacco Disorders, Diabetes With CHCBC patients, we saw a 55% drop in ER visits by our patients.
- **September 2016**: More than 6,000 residents have received care at CHCBC
- **March 2017**: More than 9,988 residents have received care at CHCBC

### All Those Who Contributed Services and/or Materials During the Creation of the Community Health Clinic.

4-Most Group, Inc. – Architects  
Advanticom  
Alpha Communications  
American Standard  
Armstrong  
Armstrong World  
Bauer Excavating Company  
Bob Gealey  
Bob Ubinger  
Booster Installations and Service  
Brenner Painting  
Bronder Technical Services  
Butch Reith  
Butler Cranberry Lock Safe & Door  
Butler Area Sewer Authority  
Butler Garden Club  
Carpenters Local 522  
Ceiling Systems, Inc.  
Custom Door Systems, Inc.  
Daltile  
Dickson Trucking  
Dulucu Glass  
Eagle Commercial Center  
Eagle Printery  
Ertle Engineer & Builder  
Etzel Masonry  
Fike Construction  
Fire Fighter Sales & Services  
Furniture Galleries  
Gabriel Enterprises  
Gardian  
Hagan’s  
Hansen Aggregates PMA, Inc.  
Hite Electric  
Hortert Painting  
Hoyt Forte  
IBEW Electrical Union Labor Volunteers  
Interstate Pipe and Supply  
Isacco Tile  
J & J Fire Protection  
Keystone Electric  
Knoechel Heating Co.  
LaFace and McGovern  
Loyd-Johnson Co.  
Lou Morris  
McDonald’s Plumbing  
National City Bank  
Nicholas Enterprises, Inc.  
North Pittsburgh Drywall  
Orberg Employees  
Osterling Concrete, Inc.  
Penn Electric  
Penn Telecom  
Polly Nagich  
Professional Code Services  
Ram Acoustical  
Reneick Brothers  
Roberson Heating Supply  
Ron Hartman Concrete  
Roppe Rubber  
Sam Lyon  
Scablon Engineering LLC  
Schauner Awning Mfg.  
Scott Electric  
Siebert Construction  
Seneca Hardwood Lumber  
Sheertmetal Workers Local 12  
Sherwin Williams  
Shipley Plumbing  
Simplex-Grinnell  
Stirling Landscape  
Steinmiller Woodworking  
Suburban Insulation  
The Home Depot  
Trader Horn  
ULB Construction  
United Plate Glass  
United Way / Day of Giving  
US Gypsum  
VT Industries  
Walmart  
Warren & Warren, Inc.  
WBC & Associates, Inc.  
WKThomas and Associates  
Wholesale Builders Supply  
Wiest Asphalt Products and Paving Inc.  
Worsley’s

### Thank You to 40 contributors and suppliers, the entire construction project cost less than a fourth of the actual cost!
September 2008 The buzz is that the dental program is close to funding
July 2009 An article in the Post Gazette explained that in order to acquire a dental program, $40,000 was needed. “We’re a fraction of an inch from getting it off the ground.” Cece Foster
July 2009 800 names were already on the waiting list for dental
July 2009 Six dentists have already committed to rotating hours at the Community Health Clinic
November 2009 900 on waiting list
November 2009 Dental Department opens — Dr. George Bilowick agrees to be the volunteer dental director
November 2010 More than 900 patients had been treated by the dental department
June 2011 600 more patients had been treated since the first of the year
June 2016 The Dental Department is serving Veterans without dental insurance and Slippery Rock University students with emergencies or without family financial support.

A special thank you to the Volunteer Dentists of CHCBC Dental Office. Over the past 9 years, $1.2 million dollars in dental services have been provided and over 3,000 hours donated to the Clinic.

Dr. George Bilowick, Director Dr. Robert Fornalczyk Dr. Dennis Keyes Dr. James Rathfon
Dr. Snejzana Bagic Dr. Colleen Gottuso Dr. Ralph Kuhn Dr. Aletta Swart
Dr. Richard Bonnett Dr. Jeffrey Hitchan Dr. J. Gary McHugh Dr. Robert Todd
Dr. Donald Brockley Dr. John Keelan Dr. David Naporas Dr. Timothy Weber

Dr. Bilowick has been the Dental Director here at the Clinic since the opening of the Dental Department in October 2009 until his retirement from the Clinic on May 30, 2018. Dr. Bilowick has volunteered over 1,555 hours.

“The CHCBC is one of the great unknown treasures of the Butler Area. Without them I would have no medical or dental care. With them I have everything I need. And P.S., the dental is the best I’ve received!” — Female, 60, Butler Twp

“Linda was always there to answer any questions or needs with my diabetes.” — Female, 45, Butler City
Thank you for your Service

“Volunteers are love in motion.” — Author Unknown

Volunteers from 2007 - 2018

- The first volunteer training was held on January 8, 2008 by Beth (Singleton) Foringer.
- By September 2008, there were 83 volunteers.

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.” — Author Unknown

57,532 Hours Volunteered

Our Staff and Volunteers
Both Current and Past
Our Newly-Focused Mission and Vision Statements
To provide primary integrated healthcare services for neighbors in Butler County and surrounding communities.

Core Values

To be an ethical organization –
We are consistently honest in our communication and reliable in our actions. We allocate our donors’ gifts to their best advantage.

To respect our patients, staff and volunteers –
We are nonjudgmental, supportive and compassionate.

To strive for excellence –
We give our very best effort in our clinical and all supporting functional areas.

To facilitate hope and healing –
We listen and utilize all available community resources to help our patients achieve optimal functioning.

Current Staff

Clinic Staff
Executive Director - Kimberly Reamer
Director of Case Management - Linda Thoma
Director of Development and Public Relations - John Righetti
Office Manager - Julie Fitzpatrick
Administrative Assistant - Terri Edgar

Medical Staff
Medical Director - Dr. Michele Mikolajczak, D.O.
Nurse Practitioner - Chris Cassioli, CRNP
Diabetic Nurse Educator - Linda Reichart, R.N.
Volunteer Dietitian - Carol Landis
Behavioral Health - Mandy Claypoole, PA
Volunteer Pharmacist - Larry Hibbs, RPH

Dental Staff
Interim Dental Director – Linda Thoma
Dental Coordinator - Jo Anderson, EFDA
Dental Hygienist - Lauren Dowling, RDH

Fundraising

Chris Fennimore of WQED Cooks.
Sixth Annual Signature Sensations

A Community Tribute to Jean B. Purvis

Dr. Reefer
First recipient of the Jean B. Purvis Community Cornerstone Award

Larry Berg
Second recipient of the Jean B. Purvis Community Cornerstone Award

As the Community Health Clinic ponders the last ten years, we excitedly look to the future and our impact on Butler and surrounding communities. We will serve as a vital link in the local healthcare network by providing skilled and compassionate medical and dental care as we partner with other community resources to facilitate healing and hope for those who seek our help.

Anniversary Edition Editor: Jim Neutrelle
Assisted by: Terri Edgar