

March 30, 2017

## Repairers of the Breach Medical Clinic

Our clinic was open 13 days in the month of March and saw a total of 83 patients, 16 women, and 67 men. We are free to all who come and take care of everything from the common cold to diabetes and high blood pressure. Many of our patients are homeless, which in itself presents challenges in patient care. For those that have insurance through the Medicare or Medicaid finding a primary care provider can be difficult. Some clinics accept only certain HMO's, some doctors are not taking new patients, and some have long waiting times for appointments. The same problem applies to dentists, psychiatrists and other specialists. Thus are the circumstances that our patients encounter daily. We are here to help fill a gap in healthcare that is seemingly overlooked in our society.

These are the marginalized patients who we serve, educate, and advocate for every time we open our doors. If it were not for the dedication of our staff of volunteers, the needs of our patients would go unanswered. Our team is composed of physicians, registered nurses, physician assistants' and students working together to for a common purpose, which is to provide quality care to every patient, we see. Our volunteers gave of their time and talent 264 hours valued at \$10,722.76. External services provided 24 hours valued at \$1,600.00. As of the end of this quarter, volunteers have provided 714 internal hours valued at \$30,477 providing 271 patient care visits. We also received donations valued at \$12,205.00 in March. Our partnership with Dr. Comfort shoes provided 80 pair of shoes for diabetic patients. We also received insulin, medication donations, socks, lotions, and asthma inhalers.

Our Marquette Physician Assistant students continue to come in groups of six or seven students each Tuesday afternoon and will continue through April. There is a different group each

time, so all can experience urban medicine. MSOE nursing students are here on Wednesdays working with experienced nurses to provide care. They are the same group six students that come for nine-week semesters. Our current group ends April 12 and a new group comes on April 26. We also work with the Medical College of Wisconsin with first and 2<sup>nd</sup> year medical students who come in once a week and on Saturdays when we are open.

We are holding our next breast health clinic on April 15, which is sponsored by Partners in Pursuit of the Promise. We are in the process of scheduling hearing tests with the Marquette Audiologist and her students.

Repairers of the Breach is a member of the free clinic community collaborative, which meets to discuss opportunities, useful services and changes in healthcare on a regional, statewide, and national levels. A point of interest for me was a program called Mission of Mercy which is a dental program offered by Seaton Dental Clinic. During the school years, a mobile dental clinic provides dental care for children. In summer, they may be going through the city to help those in need. I have been in contact with the director of the program and have asked that the mobile unit come here sometime in the summer months. It is possible that this team will come to Repairers sometime in July or August. It is not written in stone yet, but the possibility is a positive note for our community.

Repairers of the Breach Medical Clinic continue to actively lobby for the rights of patients to receive non-discriminatory and confidential care to all in need. We continue to live our mission and vision, which is the bedrock of building a foundation of healthier people.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carolyn Slater, Clinic Coordinator