



Community Connection

Our Mission is to provide primary health care and preventive health education for the residents of Pierce and St. Croix Counties who have no health care alternative.

SPRING/SUMMER 2025



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Fall Fundraiser at Forestville Vines

Join us for an afternoon of wonderful food, good company and a great cause! Save the date for our annual Fall Fundraiser on **Sunday, October 12, 2025, from 1-3 PM** at the beautiful Forestville Vineyards. Expect camaraderie, entertainment, food and drinks, door prizes, and silent auction items generously donated by local businesses and individuals who support the Free Clinic's mission. You won't want to miss it!

CELEBRATING OUR NURSES National Nurses Week (May 6-12)

Nurses are the heartbeat of the Free Clinic. Whether it's a listening ear, a steady hand, or a moment of comfort, their impact is felt in every corner of our care. This week, we pause to say thank you to the nurses who show up with skill, heart, and an unwavering commitment to our community. We couldn't do this without you!

Ella Anderson
Laura Anderson
Pauline Berman
Sue Dzubay
Ellie Ehrich
Terry Ekstrom
Jennifer Hall
Heather Hecht
Ginny Johnson
Mary Conroy-Johnson
Megan Johnston

Emily Keating
Molly Lannon
Rich Lloyd
Collean Loucks
Carol Marnell
Karrie Masog
Jena Most
Lexi Parent
Grace Redmond
Julie Rystrom



IN LOVING MEMORY OF Leah Gavin

Compassionate Pharmacist and Fierce Advocate for Health Equity. It is with deep gratitude and heavy hearts that we honor the life and legacy of Leah, one of the founding board members and volunteer Pharmacy Director of the Free Clinic of Pierce & St. Croix Counties. As a dedicated pharmacist, Leah brought not only her professional expertise but a relentless passion for justice in healthcare. She believed that no one should ever go without the medicine or care they needed.

Whether she was dispensing critical medications, mentoring volunteers, or simply listening to someone who needed an ear, Leah served with both skill and heart. Her legacy lives on in every life touched, every prescription filled, and every barrier broken down.

We'll keep carrying it forward, Leah. Your light won't go out.



Want This Newsletter in Your Inbox?

We'd love to keep in touch digitally! If you'd like to receive future newsletters via email, simply scan the barcode and add your name and email address.



LEADERSHIP

Julie Ducklow, *Chair*
Victoria Losinski, *Co-Chair*
Miranda Thorsen, *Secretary*
Julie Freeborn, *Treasurer*

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eunice Adegoke
Keith Bratulich, MD
Mary Conroy-Johnson
Katie Ihus
Robert Johnson, MD
Sharlene Lopez
Amanda Nelson
Max Neuhaus
AZ Snyder
Chris Tashjian, MD

STAFF

Mary Steele
Clinic Manager
Jena Most
Nursing Supervisor

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Our board just got even stronger! In this edition, we're proud to introduce the newest members of our leadership team. Each brings unique expertise and a deep passion for the Free Clinic's mission. Get to know the faces behind the strategy!



AZ Snyder

AZ has been the Public Health Director for Pierce County since 2018. Her career started in international health, and she has worked on HIV, maternal and child health, and healthcare workforce development projects in Africa and Asia. AZ then led a team of epidemiologists in a local health department in the Baltimore, Maryland area before coming home to Minnesconsin. AZ holds a Master of Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame.



Amanda Nelson

Amanda Nelson is currently serving as the Manager of Strategy & Performance at Xcel Energy where she develops and implements business strategies. With an extensive history at Xcel Energy, Amanda has held various roles, including Senior Change Management and Business Integration. Amanda's career began in the United States Air Force, and her leadership and strategic skills were further honed through roles at Target Corporation and Trinity Logistics prior to joining Xcel Energy.

Times are tough.
Costs keep rising, but incomes don't always follow.
For many, prescriptions and healthcare just aren't affordable.

That's why the Free Clinic is so important—and the need for it keeps growing.
The clinic receives no federal or state funding. It runs entirely on donations and volunteers.

Your support truly makes a difference.

PATIENTS NEED US AND WE NEED YOU!

I would like to support the Free Clinic of Pierce and St. Croix Counties

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



Please send check or money order to:

Free Clinic of Pierce and St. Croix Counties
P.O. Box 745 • River Falls, WI 54022

BUD'S BLOOMS



Purchase a “Buds Bloom”
today and help support
accessible healthcare for all!

This May, spread some joy and support your community with the Blooms for Happiness fundraiser! Each “Buds Bloom” is a charming mason jar filled with fresh flowers—no card, just simple beauty—available for \$12. For every jar sold, \$5 goes directly to the Free Clinic of Pierce & St. Croix Counties, helping provide critical healthcare to those in need. The fundraiser runs all through May—perfect for May Day [May 1], National Nurses Week [May 6 - 12], National Teacher Day [May 6], and Mother’s Day [May 11]—or just to brighten someone’s day!

The fundraiser will take place throughout the entire month of May at:



1674 Commerce Court, River Falls, WI

Store Hours:

Monday – Tuesday: 9 AM – 4 PM

Wednesday – Friday: 9 AM – 5 PM

Saturday: 8 AM – 1 PM

Join us in spreading happiness and making a meaningful impact in our community.

ADVISORY PANEL UPDATE:

Expanding Our Reach

Thanks to a powerful two-day strategy session with local leaders and volunteers, we’re walking away with bold, community-driven ideas to boost visibility and engagement in both counties. From grassroots outreach to new partnerships, momentum is building—and you’re a key part of it.

THURSDAY NIGHT BINGO AT FORESTVILLE

- Food, Fun & A Great Cause

Rally your friends and neighbors—**BINGO among the Vines** kicks off Thursday, May 29, from 7–9 PM at Forestville Vineyards and will happen every Thursday night through October.

Start the evening with Forestville’s **pizza and salad buffet**, then settle in for BINGO, local wine, beer, and plenty of laughs on the beautiful grounds. All bingo proceeds benefit the Free Clinic, so come for the fun, stay for the cause. Every dollar raised supports vital healthcare for our neighbors in need.



ELIGIBILITY

- Resident of Pierce or St. Croix County
- Household income of 250% or less of the Federal Poverty Level
- No health insurance
- Seeking care within our scope of services

HOURS

Every Tuesday, with registration beginning at 4:15 pm. No appointment is needed. Patients are seen on a walk-in basis.

LOCATION

1629 E Division Street
River Falls, WI 54022
Door #16

PHONE

715.307.3948



P.O. Box 745 | River Falls, WI 54022

The Free Clinic is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and relies on the generous financial support of donors.

**FOR OUR
SUPPORTERS**



**FOR OUR
HEALTHCARE
HEROES**

Sola Adegoke, MD | Christy Atkinson, MD | Keith Bratulich, MD | Dave DeGear, MD
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Kurt Helmrick, PA-C | Sara Holmberg, NP | Robert Johnson, MD
Jeff Larsen, MD | Sheri Madison, NP | Ryan McFarland, MD | Sarah McFarland, MD
Cassidy McGlothen, NP | Greg Miller, MD | Allison Morning, NP | Lisa Naser, PA-C
Christine Ostendorf, NP | Juan Preciado-Riestra, MD | Russell Roloff, MD
Meghan Schulz, NP | Rachel Sixberry, NP | Mark Stannard, MD | Chris Tashjian, MD
Anna Walker, PA-C | Greg Young, MD

WE ARE GRATEFUL