

Office of Community Health

Promoting Healthy Individuals, Families and Communities

Over 80 percent of what makes people healthy happens outside of a doctor's office.¹ Genetics, behavior, the environment, socioeconomic status and education—the context of people's lives in their communities—all influence human health.

That's why the University of Wisconsin Department of Family Medicine and Community Health (DFMCH) has created a new Office of Community Health. We promote healthy communities where everyone can thrive—for generations.

Why Community Health Matters

1. To improve health, increase patient satisfaction and decrease health care costs, primary care physicians must understand what promotes human health at the individual and community levels.²
2. Ensuring health requires more than treating individuals and diseases. Primary care physicians must take a public-health approach, creating conditions that support health and wellness.³
3. Primary care physicians can more effectively address the root causes of health conditions by engaging in community collaborations, improving health care systems and influencing policy initiatives.⁴



Above: We partnered with the Badger Prairie Needs Network to create a volunteer garden at the UW Health Verona Clinic. The garden produced over 700 pounds of food for the community in 2015.

Learn more about how we create healthy communities—and how you can help.

¹ <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/our-approach>

² www.annfammed.org/content/12/Suppl_1/S1.long

³ www.nap.edu/read/13381/chapter/1

⁴ www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/_WMS/publications/wmj/pdf/113/6/218.pdf

All references accessed March 17, 2016.

About Our Program

We focus our work in three key areas:

- **Education.** We are developing a statewide community health portal of educational materials to teach family medicine residents how to become community-responsive health professionals.
- **Patient Care.** We directly engage with patients to develop innovative health care models that promote healthy families and communities.
- **Research.** We promote research that integrates patient voices into best practices for health care delivery. We also serve as a resource hub to connect DFMCH faculty and staff statewide with community research partners.

SPOTLIGHT: CARE Partnership

As part of the “CARE: Community Action Resource and Education” pilot project, we have partnered with the City of Madison Fire Department, Public Health Madison Dane County, and residents of Dryden Terrace, a housing development for seniors and the disabled located near one of our clinics.

We meet monthly to identify community needs, establish outreach services and develop similar support models for other locations.



Above: DFMCH resident Bonnie Garvens, MD, talks with a Dryden Terrace resident at a community health outreach event.

How Can You Help?

Your donation will make it possible for us to continue this important work. Donor funding will support educational opportunities, outreach activities, and collaborative, community-based research projects.

To discuss a contribution, please contact Linda Haskins at (608) 263-3402.



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Leadership



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**Please support our work.
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