

Ann Silverman Community Health Clinic - Overview

Ann Silverman Community Health Clinic, formerly The Free Clinic of Doylestown, serves low-income uninsured or underinsured adults and children in the greater Central Bucks County community. The Free Clinic was founded in October 1994 as a joint program of Doylestown Hospital and its medical staff. In 1997 the clinic became a separate, private not-for-profit organization with its own board of directors. The hospital donates office space and other hospital resources such as HR, security, and housekeeping. The clinic reimburses the hospital at cost for operational expenses, including prescriptions and outpatient medical testing and services.

There is no cost to the patients and no insurance is accepted. To be eligible, a patient must live within the clinic's service area, be uninsured and with household incomes within 250% of the federal poverty level. Diagnostic testing, prescription medications, and other medically necessary outpatient services such as physical therapy are also provided. Medical appointments are available 25-30 hours per week, with both day and evening appointments. Medical services are provided at Doylestown Hospital, the Bucks Landing Family Center in Warminster, and at St. John the Baptist Church Food Pantry in Ottsville. Dental hygiene services are provided onsite and treatment is provided in 35 volunteer dentists offices.

The medical clinic has provided over 32,000 patient visits, and served over 8,000 individual adults and children. The dental program opened in 2002 and has provided 3,200 dental treatment visits for 700 patients. Funding is primarily from community donations and special events, with additional funding from foundations and small government grants. The budget for FY2009-2010 is \$493,000.

The clinic operates with a small number of paid staff and over 200 volunteer doctors, nurses, dentists, dental hygienists, social workers and support volunteers. The Executive Director and Administrative Assistant are the only full time employees. Part time staff includes the Dental Coordinator, two Nurse Practitioners, the Nurse/Clinic Coordinator, a bilingual Social Worker, an Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper.

In addition to medical and dental care, the clinic provides social work services. Adults and children are enrolled in free or low-cost health insurance, such as CHIP, Medicaid and the "AdultBasic" program. Patients also receive help locating resources such as low-cost housing, legal assistance, food, and help for battered women. Assistance is also provided to help eligible persons enroll in the free and low-cost medication programs offered by the pharmaceutical companies. Annually the clinic secures over \$150,000 of donated prescription medications.