

Catherine's Health Center

Expanding Health Care
to the Working Poor



Access to Health Care is critical for all residents of Grand Rapids and a priority for the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

For the uninsured, finding health care can be a challenge.

In its current home in the basement of St. Alphonsus Church, Catherine's Health Center estimates turning away 200 people a year who need health services. Operating on a small budget with staff, VISTA workers and volunteers, this health center primarily serves those who earn too much for Medicaid coverage, but are uninsured. To expand service, Catherine's launched a capital campaign to refurbish and move into space within the now-vacant St. Alphonsus School. With this move, the Center hopes to triple the number of patients that are able to access services, and consequently avoid visits to hospital emergency rooms, which are often the last resort of many who are poor and uninsured.

The Community Foundation awarded a \$100,000 grant for the new expanded space, which will include a business office, six exam rooms including one that could be used for physical therapy, a pharmacy, conference room, and storage space. The Center also will be much more accessible than the current location, with a more visible entrance off Lafayette, and offer a much higher level of privacy than the current cramped space.

Grant Facts

Organization: Catherine's Health Center

Grant amount: \$100,000

Grant purpose: To expand the number of low-income and uninsured patients served

Web site: www.catherineshc.org

Started: 1996

Location: 224 Carrier ST NE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

No. served: Currently about 400 patients per month, but anticipates serving 1,300 per month with additional space.

This Is Community Leadership

According to data from the 2008 Greater Grand Rapids Community Survey, 18.6% of the population in Grand Rapids did not have access to adequate health care. To **impact** this, the Community Foundation **targets** programs that address risk factors for chronic preventable diseases & persistent disparities by ethnicity and/or socioeconomic status. The Community Foundation's **leadership** on health care includes gifts to capital projects that expand **critical** services and access to those most in need. Were it not for this grant, those most in need might through the cracks in our health care system.

Ways You Can Help

To help ensure the success of this grant you may give to address any of the needs listed below. Please call Catherine's Health Center at 616.233.0992 to learn more.

- **Volunteer Coordinator**
- \$30,000
- **AmeriCorps VISTA Workers**
- \$22,000
- **Electronic Medical Records (EMR) System** - \$35,000

To ensure the Community Foundation can make grants like this one in the future, please consider a gift to the Fund for Healthy People. Please call 616.454.1751 to learn the benefits of Community Foundation giving and how gifts can be made.



Grand Rapids
community foundation™

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