

checkup

BVMI
Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative

DOING MORE FOR MORE PEOPLE

Healthy Women = Stronger Families

Teacher

Family Leader

Hero Mom

Role Model

Breadwinner





DEAR FRIEND

It's hard to believe it's already November! This year has both flown by and gone too slowly, as we keep adapting to the challenges brought on by COVID-19.

We've spent the year learning more about the changing needs of our patients, finding ways to meet them where they are. Telehealth was a saving grace when our clinic doors had to close for a while, but not seeing patients in person impacted our ability to perform exams and testing, especially for women.

Things look a bit more "normal" these days, and we are making well-woman visits a priority. Our volunteer providers, and a new part-time women's health nurse practitioner, are making sure these important visits happen as quickly as possible.

Caution remains the word of the day when it comes to COVID. That's why BVMI's 12th Anniversary Gala, our largest fundraising event of the year, was held virtually on November 16, with a focus on women's health. We are sincerely grateful to the generous friends who showed up and stepped up to make sure our patients continue to have access to BVMI's special brand of healthcare.

Throughout the last 21 months, your ongoing support bolstered our spirits and kept us going, despite the toll taken by the pandemic. Every gift you make to BVMI is a gift of health to nearly 1,400 patients who call BVMI their medical home. From our "home" to yours, Happy Holidays!

Amanda

Amanda Missey, President/CEO
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In the Nick of Time

BVMI's female patients "hold their families up" in many ways: physically, emotionally, and financially. When they're ill, everyone suffers. Our team works every day to keep women well, for their sakes and for those they care about.

Every patient has a story to tell. Sarah's is one that brings us relief and gratitude. Unable to afford healthcare when she arrived in the U.S., Sarah learned about BVMI from a friend. Through our Women's Health Initiative, she received a routine mammogram. The results were not what she'd hoped.

"The day BVMI shut down because of COVID, I got a call from Holy Name Medical Center," said Sarah. "Based on my mammogram results, I needed a biopsy. Then the biopsy showed I had breast cancer, and needed surgery. I couldn't afford that, so BVMI helped me find the resources I needed. They provided interpreters and arranged appointments for me. They even screened me for depression, and provided mental health support."

Two-thirds of BVMI's patients are women, nearly 900 in all. In addition to primary care, each receives an annual well-woman exam through the Women's Health Initiative. All women over the age of 40 are referred out for an annual mammogram.

“

I don't know what would have happened to me, and then to my family, if I hadn't found BVMI.

”

"My cancer was caught early, while it was treatable," said Sarah. My friend who referred me to BVMI has had uterine and breast surgery, too. We agreed that if we're ever able, we'll donate to BVMI. They are like friends and family, and have done so many things for us."

Survivor



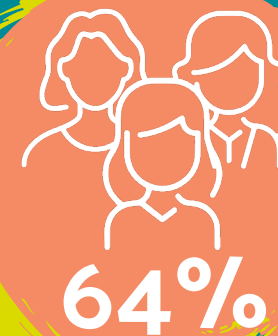
Risk Taker



Gaining Independence

Helena, a BVMI patient and single parent was underemployed, working long hours at low-paying jobs. BVMI's Case Management program helped her find food and rental assistance. But Case Manager Rosa wanted to do more for Helena and others like her. She contacted the Women's Rights Information Center and Bergen County Job Center, and they covered the cost of certified Home Health Aide training for Helena and a few other BVMI female patients. Helena took a financial risk, reducing her work hours in order to study. It paid off. She passed her exams! Now a certified Home Health Aide with a reputable program, Helena is empowered and hopeful in her new career.

Without BVMI, nearly 900 women living in poverty would have no recourse for ongoing care.



Women comprise 64% of our patients; 90% of them are immigrants, the majority Hispanic.

80% of our 730 Case Management appointments in 2020 were for women who needed help with basic needs, such as food and rent.



By 2023, BVMI anticipates serving 1,200 female patients.

2022 events!



BVMI ANNUAL PADDLE TOURNAMENT

February 13, 2022
Upper Ridgewood Tennis Club



BVMI GOLF CLASSIC

June 6, 2022
Arcola Country Club



BVMI 13TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

September 22, 2022
Edgewood Country Club

FOR MORE INFORMATION

on upcoming events, contact Barbara Loscalzo,
BVMI Special Events Manager, at barbara@bvmi.net

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Powered by passionate volunteers, BVMI meets the medical needs of low-income, working, uninsured adults in Bergen County by providing free, comprehensive, patient-centered primary healthcare.



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THANK YOU

FOR PROVIDING HELP AND HOPE TO OUR BERGEN COUNTY NEIGHBORS



Ellen Rafferty
*Senior Manager of
Social Investing at BD*

A Company We Can Count On

Long-term partners can be hard to come by in the nonprofit world. When a major donor stands by you and really listens to your needs, it's special.

For the last 11 years, Becton, Dickinson and Company's (BD) history of support to BVMI has spanned our operations, fundraising events, Women's Health Initiative, and Diabetes Prevention, Care and Education Program. They even donate medical supplies to us. "Not a day goes by that we don't think of BD's generosity as we serve our patients," said Amanda Missey, BVMI's President and CEO.

"While BD's reach is global, we're also deeply committed to supporting organizations that enrich communities where our employees live and work," said Ellen Rafferty, Senior Manager of Social Investing at BD. "Our giving strategy focuses on expanding healthcare access, advancing human potential and supporting resilient communities. BVMI does all of that. It's an excellent match."

BD's latest grant to BVMI is a three-year commitment, totaling \$250,000, to further the work of

our Women's Health Initiative. "So many aspects of a woman's life benefit her family if she keeps herself healthy," said Ellen. "Through this grant, nearly 1,000 BVMI patients will receive clinical, mental health and case management services."

BVMI benefits from BD's other charitable involvements, too. Through BD's support of the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (NAFC) – of which BVMI is a member – pass-through funding and support for educational conferences finds its way to clinics across the country. BD also partners with Direct Relief, supporting disaster relief work and programs that strengthen the health safety net system around the world. BVMI has received medical supplies and medications from Direct Relief.

"Free clinics are the true heroes on the frontlines of healthcare, and BVMI has grown so much over the years," added Ellen. We say clinics need heroes too – especially superheroes like BD!

We're grateful to our 12th Anniversary Gala Sponsors

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