

Solving the Healthcare Puzzle for Bergen County's Uninsured



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Providing great healthcare is no mystery. All it takes is seasoned, compassionate practitioners, a great support team, clinical space, equipment – and YOU.

At BVMI, "meeting our patients where they are" means many things. We view each person as a unique individual, and consider how personal circumstances affect overall health. Clinical care is provided onsite or by telehealth when possible. Patients are connected to social services and with specialized medical care when needed. Our goal has always been to treat the whole person, and not just a list of symptoms.

Every member of our team – medical professionals, social workers, mental health providers, support staff, and **you** – connects to another in some way. Your generosity and compassion allow BVMI and our patients to thrive, keeping them as physically and mentally healthy as possible.

Your support allows us to dream bigger while staying focused on the most grateful group of patients you could ever meet. As the number of uninsured Bergen County residents increases, we're prepared to welcome hundreds of new patients to BVMI. And, early next year, BVMI@Unity Health in Garfield will open to serve people living in southwestern Bergen County.

So, while there's no mystery to providing great healthcare, it does require having all the right pieces in place. With your help, BVMI is helping to solve the healthcare puzzle for hundreds of patients.

Sincerely,

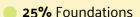
Amanda Missey
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Michael Faust, MD
Board Chair

PS If you'd like to learn more about how we're helping people here in Hackensack, or our plans for BVMI@Unity Health, please reach out to me at amissey@bvmi.net or 201-518-8484. I'd love to hear from you!







- 19% Employee Retention Tax Credit
- 12% Government Grants
- 12% Individuals
- 11% Donated Services
- 9% Donated Goods
- 8% Special Events
- 2% Corporations
- 2% Other



- **81%** Program
- 10% Management & General
- 9% Fundraising

PRIMARY CARE

Step One at BVMI is basic care. It is the starting point for discovering our patients' needs – and for building their trust.

As more new people became eligible for BVMI in 2022, our team worked hard to meet the demand. Donors enabled us to hire an eligibility interviewer, who screened 200 potential new patients. Our volunteers continued to provide a high standard of care to every patient. Being able to consistently see the same doctor was a plus, and we made that happen. Also, more than half of our patients utilized telehealth appointments at some point; this option is now an integral part of our care when that makes sense. Patients can stay in touch between in-person visits, without having to take time off from work. It's another way that BVMI meets our patients "where they are."

6,935
patient visits in 2022;
887 patients served.





59%

of women who needed a mammogram got one in 2022 (national HEDIS benchmark for Medicaid patients is 58% every two years).

WOMEN'S HEALTH

For women who call BVMI their medical home, we provide the services they need. Two-thirds of our patients are females.

Visits through our Women's Health Initiative were up 51% from 2021. We offer women the full spectrum of health services, including annual exams, mammogram referrals for anyone over age 40, and compassion to all. Screening surveys show that more than a third of our female patients struggle with depression, and BVMI's mental health professionals can provide them with counseling. Our case manager locates partner agencies to help with basic needs and beyond. For complex medical issues, the BVMI team searches out free and/or low-cost diagnostic services and care.

MISSION

Powered by passionate volunteers, BVMI delivers free, high-quality healthcare to Bergen County's working uninsured, helping them live healthy, productive lives.

BVMI Volunteers as of 12/31/2022

Alexandre Ackad, MD Sonal Agarwal, RDN Heidi Ahlborn, MD Stella Ahn George Ajjan, DO Christopher Alvarez Cheryl Amsterdam Melissa Arroyo-Hernandez, RN, APN Fatimah Aslam Muhanad Aziz Oughali Nancy Baker-Newman, RN Richard Balter Rebecca Baxt, MD Alyssa Becker, MD Mary Beese Tapas Bhowmik, MD Linda S. Bleiweiss Patricia Bombolevicz, BSN, RN

DIABETES PREVENTION, CARE AND EDUCATION

When it comes to fighting diabetes, BVMI needs the right resources in place. Your support has enabled us to focus on treatment and prevention. Our patients and their families thank you.



DIABETES CARE & EDUCATION

In 2022, our diabetic patients continued to see their primary care doctor as well as our volunteer endocrinologists or our Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist. Many met with a dietitian. We monitored A1c levels and worked with each patient to reverse any negative trends attributed to the pandemic, weight gain, depression, or not taking medications as directed. Even with their many challenges, BVMI patients continue to exceed national benchmarks.



61.6%

of diabetic patients have controlled A1c (national benchmark is 34.7%).

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40%

of BVMI Patients have diabetes or pre-diabetes.





PREVENT DIABETES PROGRAM (PDP)

No one wants to be diagnosed with diabetes, so BVMI focuses on prevention. Approximately one-third of our patients are pre-diabetic. At-risk patients are encouraged to enroll in BVMI's Prevent Diabetes Program. This nine-month initiative focuses on diabetes education, including how to develop better nutrition habits, the role of fitness, and other lifestyle changes that can prevent the condition. In 2022, your support allowed 14 patients to complete the PDP successfully! They all lost weight, embraced healthier ways of eating, and felt more optimistic about their health. In 2023, we have welcomed a new class of 24 participants.



86%

of 2022 PDP participants lowered their A1c levels through healthy eating and exercise.

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KOREAN HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

Thanks to you, the foundation of our Korean Healthcare Program has remained solid and is ready for more expansion.



As the impact of COVID-19 on BVMI's operations eased in 2022, we were able to once again begin screening potential patients. Up to then, the pandemic contributed to a decrease in the total number of people served, including those from our Korean community. Reasons included the impact of temporarily-expanded Medicaid eligibility, people moving out of the area, or patients neglecting their healthcare needs as they dealt with many other issues.

We have been rebuilding our outreach to serve more low-income working Korean residents. In the meantime, we continue to serve 75 Korean-speaking patients. Nearly one-third of them are diabetic, nearly one-half have hypertension, and 84% have high cholesterol. They need, and have utilized, all of BVMI's services over this past year.



60%

of New Jersey's Korean population lives in Bergen County.

John McConnell, MD Catherine McPolin, MSN, RN Deborah Melamed Kelly Annie Mercado Ingrid Meza Lisa Ann Miller, MD Anastasia Milliman Miriam Moctezuma Terriann Mohideen Maryann Monaco, BSN Jane Morais Karina Mota, MD Esther Nelson, RN Elizabeth Noe Suzanne O'Connell Donna O'Hern, MSN, BSN Laura Oliva-Beltran, MD Chloe O'Neill Deborah Oppenheimer, RN Dave Owens Sue Panek, BSN, RN Grishma Parikh, MD Sarah Park Anjali Patel Jay Patel Rich Patel Edward Perez, MD Michelle Pham Joana Piero Meli Quevedo Adina Radu Elizabeth Ramirez Sharon Ramsaier, RN Maria del Pilar Reilly Cheryl Reiner





100 agency partners; 356 patients; 1248 visits.

It is a full-time job to locate the "other" resources so many of our patients need. Thanks to your support, in 2022 BVMI's case manager connected more than 40% of our patients to community agencies that address food and housing insecurity, immigration concerns, and other social determinants of health. Since the pandemic began, our patients have come to us with greater financial and emotional needs than ever before. Far too many lost their jobs due to the virus, the economy, or both. In addition to treating their medical conditions this past year, we had to consider all the other challenges that impacted their health. It is no surprise that our case manager interacted in some way with virtually every other team member at BVMI.

CASE MANAGEMENT

The COVID-19 pandemic left BVMI's patients with greater financial and emotional needs than ever. Your support helped us to help them.

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MENTAL HEALTH

Far too many of BVMI's patients are still reeling from the effects of the pandemic on their mental health. We continue to help them on their path to better days.

Clearly, physical health and mental health are linked together. Poverty strengthens that bond in a most unwelcome way. More BVMI patients suffer from mental health issues today than in the past; our team of volunteer mental health professionals report that the lingering effects of the pandemic, coupled with domestic violence, childhood trauma and recent immigration, have encouraged more patients to actively seek their support.

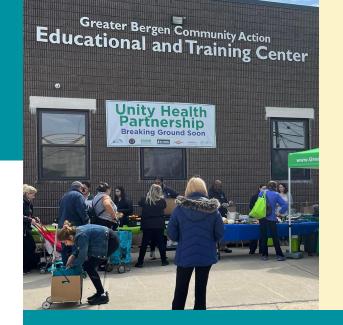
To provide the assistance that our patients need, we have laid the groundwork to hire a bilingual mental health practitioner in 2023. This important new team member will support predominantly Spanish-speaking patients who grapple with depression and anxiety.





35%

All BVMI patients are screened annually for depression - 35% screened positive.





18.5%

uninsured rate in Garfield far exceeds the State of New Jersey's 7.9% uninsured rate.

BVMI@UNITY HEALTH IN GARFIELD

BVMI has been hard at work to prepare for the opening of a **second** healthcare center in Garfield in 2024! This new clinic, serving patients in southwestern Bergen County, will be part of a larger wellness center called Unity Health Partnership. The healthcare center will enable us to serve up to 1,500 additional patients – more than doubling our patient roster – when the clinic is fully operational. In addition to primary, preventive, urgent and chronic care, BVMI@Unity Health will also offer a vision care program providing diabetic eye exams and prescriptions for glasses.

Unity Health Partnership is a unique collaborative effort among several agencies and organizations. BVMI's partners include Greater Bergen Community Action, Community Food Bank of New Jersey, CBHCare and the Garfield Department of Health. By combining forces to meet a multitude of needs, BVMI can enhance services to our patients, all from a single location.

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