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HOMETOWN FEATURE



The Deaconess Health Check mobile van makes a regular stop at the downtown Cincinnati library. PROVIDED

Deaconess Foundation launches new mobile health check unit

The Deaconess Foundation has unveiled its Deaconess Health Check mobile van, offering primary care services to individuals across Greater Cincinnati.

The state-of-the-art, mobile van will improve access to quality care in under-resourced communities by reaching residents directly where they work and live.

"The Mobile Deaconess Health Check, in collaboration with our partners, allows us to extend much-needed medical care throughout our city," said Tony Woods, chairman of the Deaconess Foundation. Woods said all members of the community have access to the mobile van, but the outreach program has been designed to help individuals who don't have the resources, time, or the ability to travel to traditional medical care sites.

"Access to comprehensive, quality health care is critical for maintaining health, preventing and managing disease, reducing unnecessary disability, and achieving health equity in our community.

Since its February 2019 launch, more than 700 individuals have received care from our Deaconess Health Check mobile van. We're looking forward to seeing the initiative continue to extend its reach and impact in neighborhoods across Cincinnati," he said.

Partner organizations include: CityLink Center; The Public Library of Cincinnati (downtown) in collaboration with Maslow's Army; the Salvation Army (Norwood); St. Vincent de Paul (downtown); Northstar Community Church (Loveland); Whitewater Crossing Christian Church (Clevs); and treatment centers for women.

Diane Decker, director of development at Deaconess Foundation, said that members of the community can receive preventative health screenings, vaccinations and immunizations, physicals, treatment for acute illness and injury, and mental health evaluation. The medical staff on the van also provides support for chronic diseases such as asthma, hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease, among other services. Individuals can receive day-of care with or without an appointment.



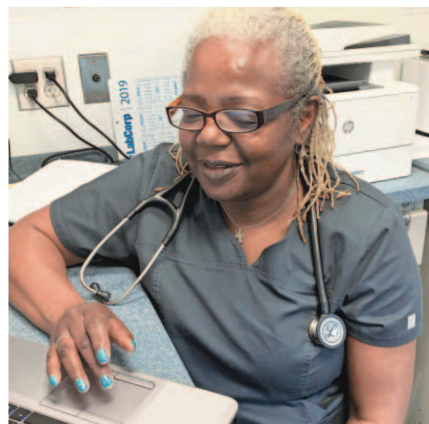
Heidee Friestuhler, practice manager, Deaconess Health Check mobile van. PROVIDED

Medicaid, Medicare, and commercial health insurance are accepted, and individuals receive treatment regardless of their ability to pay, said Decker. "This kind of convenient, but still private care allows us to advance our ability to deliver healthcare solutions where it is needed most in our community. Our community's diverse needs continue to evolve, and this helps us deliver care that meets these needs," said Decker.

Staffed by a team of healthcare providers including a medical director, nurse practitioners and medical assistants, the 41-foot van is equipped with two exam rooms, EKG and ultrasound, a practitioner's workstation, a space for lab draws, and a restroom for health screenings.

Heidee Friestuhler, practice manager for the mobile van, sees first-hand how the initiative is helping to address the psychological, social, and physical needs of individuals.

Friestuhler shared how recently, a mother



Lisa Stokes, nurse practitioner, at work inside the van. PROVIDED

brought in her five-year old, diabetic and insulin-dependent child. As a working mother without health insurance, she had previously received a month's supply of medication for her son, but she was unable to continue to afford it.

With the support of the mobile health van and the St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy, the woman was able to receive a health consultation and no-cost medication for her son.

"The Mobile Health Check is making a major impact with those who are underserved by overcoming some of the traditional barriers they may face in getting medical care," said Friestuhler.

For more information about the Deaconess Mobile Health Check's schedule or for partnership opportunities, visit <https://deaconess-health-care.com/mobile-health-van-schedule/> or contact Decker at (513) 559-2652.

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