



**Visit the Bloomington
Family Health and
Dental Center:**

**811 W. Second Street
Bloomington, IN 47403**

Contact us by phone:

812.333.4001

**Visit HealthNet on the
web:**

indyhealthnet.org



Change begins with YOU! Are you IN?

**Stand up to ensure families have opportunities and
everyone can meet basic needs.**

Nearly 1 in 3 families in our region struggle to survive, living right above the poverty line, yet not qualifying for federal assistance. An additional 1 in 5 are in federally-defined poverty.

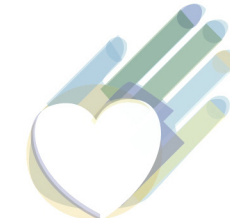
Every day United Way, Volunteers in Medicine, and 23 other certified member agencies work so everyone can have a true chance at a better life. United Way supports a range of services like healthy meals, after-school programs, job supports, senior services, financial stability, safe housing, and health care.

The United Way 2019-20 Community Campaign is in full swing raising funds that create change for families and individuals in Monroe, Owen and Green counties.

**Make a gift and see how your donation is creating change at
www.monroeunitedway.org/MyImpact.**



Community CONNECTION



FINAL EDITION

After 12 years, this is the final edition of the VIM Community Connection newsletter. This special edition focuses on the acquisition of the VIM clinic by HealthNet and attempts to answer many questions the community may have about this exciting transition.

VIM to become Bloomington Family Health and Dental Center under HealthNet

Effective December 30, the assets of the VIM clinic will be acquired by HealthNet, a not-for-profit federally qualified health center (FQHC) network based in Indianapolis. The asset purchase agreement was signed by Rick Diaz, HealthNet's president and CEO and Nancy Richman, VIM's executive director on October 15.

This is the culmination of several years of research, discussions, and extensive due diligence. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the expansion of Healthy IN Plan 2.0, many local individuals previously served by the VIM clinic became insured and were transferred to other outpatient health centers. It became clear to the board of directors that the free clinic model was too limiting for the changing healthcare environment. In order to better serve insured people whose medical conditions are exacerbated by unsafe or inadequate housing, food deserts, lack of transportation, unemployment, and so many other social issues, the FQHC model of clinic was felt to be more appropriate.

As an FQHC, HealthNet Bloomington will serve people who are fully insured, under-insured, and uninsured. The clinic will recruit several additional providers and staff and will expand to serve children, teens, adults, and seniors with no geographic restrictions.

"By any measurable indicator, it is apparent that neither Bloomington nor the other towns within Monroe County are healthy communities. With the transition to the federally qualified health care delivery model, VIM seeks to change that. We are thrilled to be able to transform in order to move into this essential healthcare space," says Nancy Richman.



Rick Diaz and Nancy Richman sign the Asset Purchase Agreement with Dan Wegg, HealthNet Chief Compliance Officer.

“

A healthy community ensures the health and well-being of every individual. It has sufficient primary health care providers and other health services, and its citizens have the means and desire to access the appropriate services.

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**Service Community
Assessment of Needs
(2012), United Way of
Monroe County**

Special Edition:

- 2 Everything you wanted to know, and then some!
- 3 Thankful for Community Support
- 4 Change begins with YOU! Are you in?

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW, AND THEN SOME!

Why did VIM decide to make this change?

For the past several years, the VIM board of directors has grappled with the implications of changes in the healthcare environment. Looking ahead a few years, it became clear that the free clinic model was going to be too limiting. Besides the increasing number of people becoming insured, as noted above, other factors of concern to the board were:

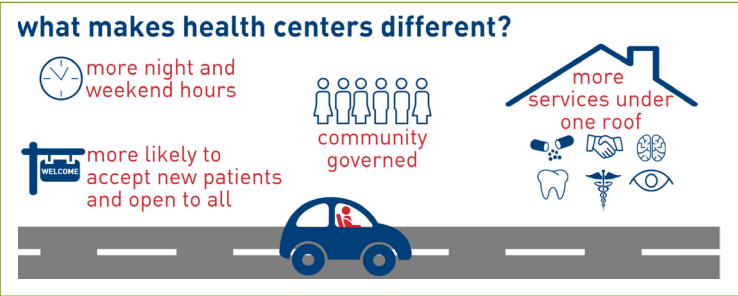
1. Brian Shockney, President, IU Health Bloomington Hospital, noted that **62%** of their emergency room visits in 2018 were non-urgent. Further, **70%** of the patients seeking care at their Urgent Care Clinic reported having no primary care physician.
2. Throughout Monroe County there is a shortage of family medicine, pediatric, OB/Gyn, and internal medicine providers, causing long wait times for an initial appointment.
3. In late 2021, IU Health Bloomington Hospital will move to Bloomington's east side, taking the emergency department and outpatient specialists located in and around the hospital with them. This will leave a gap in services for low-income people who live near downtown and on the west side.

With these concerns in mind the VIM board began exploring the following question: *What model of health care delivery is the most fiscally viable and sustainable, and at the same time best serves the VIM mission and the needs of the county in this new healthcare environment?*

What is a Federally Qualified Health Center?

FQHCs are community-based health care clinics that receive funds from the federal Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Health Center Program to provide primary care services in underserved areas. They must meet a stringent set of requirements, including providing care on a sliding fee scale based on ability to pay, and operating under a governing board that is made up of 51% patients. Currently FQHCs are the largest source of primary and preventative care for the nation's underserved, serving 28 million annually.

Community-based health centers must provide patients with access to an array of required services (whether onsite or through collaborative agreements) in order to integrate primary and preventive care, oral health, mental health, substance use, and vision care, with patient support services such as medical transportation, insurance enrollment, social work, and health education. As such, FQHCs are well-positioned to meet the nation's health care needs.



Introducing HealthNet

Since 1968, HealthNet has improved the health status of Indianapolis' inner-city neighborhoods by making high quality health services accessible to everyone, regardless of ability to pay. HealthNet annually provides affordable health care to more than 61,000 individuals through its network of eight primary care health centers, four dental clinics, pediatric/adolescent care center, OB/GYN care center, nine school-based clinics, and community support services, including WIC (Women, Infants, and Children). In addition, HealthNet has one of the largest homeless initiative programs in the state, providing services in eight shelters and at transitional housing sites, as well as a healthy families program that helps at-risk moms and children. HealthNet is the only FQHC in Indiana that is accredited by the Joint Commission of Healthcare Organizations – a mark of excellence.



The HealthNet mission statement: To improve lives with compassionate health care and support services, regardless of ability to pay.

"We were honored when VIM approached us about collaborating and look forward to working with the VIM team to improve much needed access to care. VIM and HealthNet definitely share the same vision. We both believe that health care is a right, not a privilege, and every person deserves the right to have health care in our country." Rick Diaz, HealthNet President & CEO.

How does HealthNet's acquisition of VIM benefit Monroe County?

Making this change will transform health care access in Monroe and surrounding counties. Under the HealthNet umbrella, the new clinic will be able to serve anyone regardless of income, age, geographic area, insurance, or citizen status. In addition, one of the most important changes is that the acquisition transforms VIM into a clinic focused on family medicine. Because children and seniors are typically insured, the VIM clinic historically hasn't been able to serve these populations. However, with the Bloomington Family Health and Dental Center, Richman says, "patients can bring their kids, their parents, their grandparents and they can all see one family clinician in one place."



Will the new clinic operate out of the existing VIM facility?

For now! We will be renovating the interior of the VIM clinic to create several more patient exam rooms. During this time we'll move the VIM clinic to a temporary location. However, with the goal of providing as many services as possible under one roof, it's likely that we will quickly outgrow this building.

Tell us more about the HRSA grant award

In September, the HRSA department of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced that HealthNet/VIM was awarded a two-year \$1.3 million grant through its New Access Point grant program. The purpose of this grant is to assist with the start-up costs of a new federally qualified health center. The grant allows \$150,000 to be put toward the costs of facility renovation. The remainder will be used for provider recruitment and operational start-up costs, such as furnishing 5 new exam rooms, additional computers, IT connectivity, and so forth. Receiving this award is a huge honor as there were only 3 awarded in the state and only 66 in mainland United States (11 were awarded in Puerto Rico).

Will the HealthNet Bloomington clinic have volunteers?

Not immediately. We plan to explore the possibility of using volunteers in the future. However to do this we need to establish a volunteer program that meets Joint Commission requirements. There are a lot of details to be thought through and this will take time. Our task for Year 1 is to settle into our new identity, adopt new work flows and learn the HealthNet ropes. We are very sad to be losing our dear friends who have been an integral part of the clinic for so many years!

I have donated money to VIM. What will happen to my donation?

All donations made to VIM in 2019 will be spent by VIM in 2019 for any number of essential patient care services. Examples include diabetic test strips and glucometers that we give at no cost to people challenged with diabetes, life-saving medications and vaccines, dental and medical supplies, or educational materials. The mechanism for donating to the HealthNet Bloomington clinic is not yet clear. However, please rest assured that all gifts to the Bloomington Family Health and Dental Center will stay in Bloomington for the benefit of the clinic operations.

Will the HealthNet Bloomington Family Health Center be a United Way Partner Agency?

YES! The United Way has agreed to transfer the VIM certification to HealthNet Bloomington for a continuous and smooth transition until the next certification application process scheduled for mid-2020.

VIM Thankful for Community Support

It is impossible to list the hundreds of medical and lay volunteers that have served VIM over the past 13 years. We are so grateful for the tremendous community support that has made our life-saving work possible. In addition to generous donations from individuals, congregations, and local businesses over the years, during 2019 VIM was awarded grants from the Psi Iota Society, City of Bloomington Jack Hopkins Social Services, SCI Operation Round-Up, Delta Dental, Monroe and Owen County governments, the Indiana State Department of Health, the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County, the Bloomington Health Foundation, and the Monroe County Health Department. VIM is also thankful for local businesses and providers that help us by delivering free or discounted services, including: Southern IN Radiological Associates, Southern IN Dermatology, Shredding & Storage Unlimited, Smithville Fiber, and BioReference, along with dozens of local dentists and physicians.

VIM also thanks the Bloomington Health Foundation for many years of fundraising & audit support, gift administration, NAP credits, and investment support. Finally, VIM would not have existed at all without the tremendous support provided by Indiana University Health Bloomington Hospital, CFC Properties, and the Cook Medical Group.

Please help us sustain health care for the uninsured and medically underserved by donating using the enclosed envelope today! All gifts received in 2019 will be used in December 2019.