In Mesa County, one of the fastest growing groups searching for primary care providers is our older adult population, those sixty-five years of age or over. Most are dependent on Medicare for their health insurance, and some are finding it challenging to locate a provider without a waiting list for Medicare appointments. Marillac wants our older Mesa County neighbors to know that we accept Medicare and we have appointments available to establish care.

This is a unique group: generally speaking they may have challenges associated with chronic illness, disability, mental health, oral health, and other complex health problems. In addition, our seniors face social challenges as they age: lack of family connections and knowledge of resources beyond their family unit, financial constraints that may interfere with basic needs, and loss of independence, to name only a few.

These factors and health problems are best addressed comprehensively, not in isolation, and Marillac is uniquely positioned to do just that because for years, Marillac has been practicing Integrated Care. Marillac provides all of these services and partners with other organizations to provide what we cannot.

As our life expectancy increases, more of our neighbors will need more healthcare services for a longer period of time. Marillac, with its thirty-one year history of meeting the healthcare needs of our community’s most vulnerable populations, is here for our seniors as well.

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Dr. Crystal Owens, Chief Medical Officer

An open door: that’s what Marillac is, for any one of any age seeking healthcare.

“As you age, it is helpful to be served at an integrated healthcare center, where all of your needs can be met at the same location. In addition to physical healthcare providers, Marillac has case managers ready to recommend community resources; behavioral health providers who can address grief and depression; nurses with information and tips to prevent and reduce risk of falls; health coaches to advise on nutrition and exercise; an optical team to perform exams and assist with frame choices; and dentists to address dental needs.”

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Mary’s health picture has never been pretty. For years she’s struggled with a handful of conditions, any one of which on their own would be discouraging, but together, they challenge her patience and sense of humor. But that’s what keeps her going: her attitude AND the care she receives from Derek Diaz, Physician Assistant, at MarillacHealth.

Between 1999 and 2009, Mary came to Marillac for her healthcare. She was grateful for the care because she had no insurance, even though she held a steady job. Life felt stable. But all that changed when she relocated to care for her mother. Mary no longer had healthcare support and consequently her mental and physical health declined.

When she finally returned to Grand Junction, Mary had Medicare and returned to the clinic where she was assigned to Derek. “He is honest; he treats me with respect. He really tries to find out what is wrong with me. I trust my life with Derek. I’d never go anywhere else.”

Mary with Chris, Derek Diaz’s Medical Assistant

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The senior population is the fastest growing age group in the U.S.

Number of people 65 and older in Mesa County:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Senior Patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>(projected) 1,892</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*U.S. Census Bureau

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Serue and Rick appreciate Marillac’s accessible healthcare.

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Mary with Chris, Derek Diaz’s Medical Assistant
The Giving Season is Coming – Give Where You Live & Think of Marillac

When you support a Mesa County nonprofit with your financial gift, you strengthen our community. All gift sizes matter and make a difference, so thank you in advance for your philanthropy.

Here are a few ways to express your generosity this season:

**Direct donation** – In addition to checks in the mail, Marillac accepts donations online at MarillacHealth.org/donate. Consider becoming a regular monthly donor using a credit card or deduction from your bank account.

**United Way** – many local businesses have office campaigns to support United Way and the Mesa County agencies they fund. You can direct your donation to your preferred nonprofit.

**Colorado Gives Day** – a statewide day of philanthropy on December 10th. All participating agencies receive a portion of the $1 million incentive fund. Visit ColoradoGives.org to make your donation online starting November 1st.

**Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA** - If you have reached the age of 70 ½, you must start taking withdrawals. The withdrawal will not be taxed if you pass it along to a qualified charity like MarillacHealth. Discuss this with your financial advisor.

**Legacy Gift** – A gift made through your will or trust is one of the most flexible ways to support Marillac. Beneficiary designation gifts of a retirement fund, investment, life insurance policy, or bank account are also simple ways to help ensure the future of Marillac. For more information, call (970) 298-2234.

Recent Awards for Outstanding Leadership, Quality, and Access

**Dental Operations**
Dr. Judd Chamberlain and Diana Flinn accepted a John Rossetti Centers of Excellence Award from DentaQuest at the October National Network for Oral Health Access Annual Conference. Marillac was one of three safety net dental clinics across the entire country recognized for demonstrating accomplishments in leadership, quality, access, and finance in their dental operations.

**Womens’ Health**
The Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment recently announced three award winners of the 2019 “Shirley Hass Schuett Quality Award” for the Cancer Prevention & Early Detection Program Health Navigation and Clinical Services (Women’s Wellness Connection). Marillac was a top performer in six program performance indicators: 1) for screening mammograms provided to women 50 years and older; 2) abnormal breast screenings with complete follow up; 3) time from screening to diagnosis for abnormal screening results; 4) rarely or never screened at initial pap test; 5) abnormal cervical screenings with complete follow up; and 6) time from screening to diagnosis for abnormal cervical screening results.