

MH MarillacHealth

Committed to a Healthier You.

News for Friends of Marillac • Winter 2021

Advocacy is Necessary for Our Health Center

Over the past 33 years, MarillacHealth has grown into the healthcare home for an average of 12,000 individuals. Our community-governed Health Center serves their primary medical, dental and behavioral health needs, and comprises over 52,000 annual visits at our multiple locations. **This shows amazing growth for what began as a small safety net clinic – an outcome we can all be proud of.**

It is important to note that Marillac has been a Federally Qualified Community Health Center (CHC) for nearly six years. This formal designation results in many benefits for our patients. What sets CHCs apart from other medical practices is our mission, which is to reach out and serve America's most underserved communities. **Marillac joins other CHCs that are consumer-driven and patient-centered, providing comprehensive, integrated care to anyone and everyone, regardless of their ability to pay or insurance status.**

Marillac is in good company: there are over 1,400 Health Centers operating at over 11,000 locations across the US, serving over 30 million people each year. In our state, 20 centers in 43 counties provide care for 830,000 Coloradans. **The impact is significant: data shows that CHCs on average save over \$2,300 per year per Medicaid patient compared to other primary care providers.** CHCs have proven their ability to improve health, reduce illness, narrow health disparities, and reduce health costs, which is a sound investment by any measure.

The presence and survival of MarillacHealth is vitally important to the health and well-being of Mesa County and depends in part on support of our lawmakers in Washington, D.C. Adequate Medicaid payments and direct federal grant support are essential to the continued survival of CHCs everywhere. Thanks to bipartisan support from federal and state policymakers, CHCs have been funded since their inception under President Lyndon B. Johnson during his "war on poverty". However, support is never guaranteed and that is why each year we – together with fellow CHCs and on our own - strategically reach out to our legislators to make sure they understand the needs of our community and the impact Marillac makes, so they can make informed financial decisions that benefit the health of their constituents.



Dental services are just a part of the vital role that Marillac plays in easing pain and providing good health to those in our community.

Federal support for Community Health Centers is important but not enough. And it was never intended to be.

We need our partners, patients, and friends to advocate on our behalf.

Become a CHC advocate: learn more and sign up for email updates at advocacy.cchn.org.

FREE COVID TESTING

#StopTheSpread

Appointment Required: www.marillachealth.org

OPEN

Monday & Thursday
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

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COVIDCheck
COLORADO

Marillac Adds COVID Test Site

In early February, Marillac opened a drive-through COVID-19 test site at Peachtree Center in Clifton. Until then, people living in and around Palisade, Fruitvale and Clifton had to drive to test sites in Grand Junction or Fruita which for many, presented enough of a barrier that they would not get tested. What was needed was a location easily accessible and centrally located to residents on the east end of the Grand Valley and the Peachtree Center met those criteria. **The public is welcome.**

In addition to wearing a mask, washing hands, and physically distancing from one another, testing is a key component to helping prevent the spread of the COVID-19 and controlling the pandemic in Mesa County and beyond. If someone suspects they may have been exposed, or if they have symptoms, knowing whether they have COVID-19 can not only help them receive care in a timely fashion, but can also reduce the chances that they will infect others.

For more information on testing in Mesa County, visit health.mesacounty.us/covidtesting/.



Marillac's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Owens, gets the shot!

Roll Up Your Sleeve: Get the Vaccine

Based on what is known about the vaccines for other diseases and early data from clinic trials, experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccination may help prevent you from getting COVID-19, may help prevent you from serious complications if you do contract the disease, and may help protect those around you. Because we care about the health of our community, Marillac strongly suggests our patients, staff and community members get the vaccine as soon as they have the opportunity.

Community Health Centers across the country are seen as valuable vaccination outlets and Marillac is no different. With an average of 12,000 patients, most of whom are low income and uninsured or covered by Medicaid or Medicare, Marillac looks forward to receiving authorization to be a distribution site for the COVID-19 vaccine. Many things need to be in place, including a predictable supply of the vaccine, as well as infrastructure. **We will keep you informed every step of the way.**

The ART of listening...

Patient Advisory Council jumps in where needed



PAC member Zoe Wilcox meets up with Martha Graf to assist in distributing posters for the Gifts from the Heart fundraiser.

MarillacHealth believes our patients should have a voice in their care which is why we have a Patient Advisory Council (PAC). This is a partnership and an opportunity for both sides to learn: PAC members can hear from and question staff about new or changed processes at the care sites, while staff benefits from the feedback the PAC provides. If you are a Marillac patient and are interested in joining the PAC, email Martha at Martha.Graf@MarillacHealth.org.

Patient Voices

"I actually went there to see if there were any cancellations because it was snowing and I was in a great deal of pain and they were able to see me the next day. They were very helpful."

"I couldn't recommend Marillac Health more! They have the best staff and practices on the Western Slope!"

"I can't believe something called a clinic could be this good."

Re FUND



Registration #
20023006068

Tax time creates a new season of giving to support our work

ReFUND CO allows you to use your state income tax return to make a big difference in our community. If you're due a state income tax refund, this program gives you the opportunity to use some or all of it to directly support a local nonprofit that matters to you, like MarillacHealth.

You choose where your donation goes. All you have to do is:

- Decide how much of your state income tax refund to donate (all or a portion of it).
- Enter MarillacHealth and our registration number 20023006068 in the Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit Fund line on your state tax return or tax software – or just give this info to your tax preparer when you share your tax documents.

Learn more details about the program at RefundWhatMatters.org.

Order Online: www.MarillacHealth.org

*Gifts from the Heart Valentine's Day Fundraiser!
Peace, Love, & Cupcakes - it's nearly Valentine's Day: make someone happy with some sweetness!*

A hearty thanks to our sponsors and to YOU who purchase and support Marillac.



Code Ninjas GJ – Craig & Joanna Little • Frame Depot • KREX
Mesa County Medical Society Alliance • Patton's Printing • Townsquare Media



Edesia 2021 - More to Come
We are finalizing plans for a special event in April, so stay tuned!