

Community Commitment to Local Health Care Access

Overview

The Community Foundation, Muscatine Health Support Fund, and UnityPoint Health – Trinity Muscatine are collaborating on rural health access equity in Muscatine County with plans to replace the Mulberry Health Clinic Building.

History

Back in the mid-70s, local community leaders reimagined how they could **maintain strong local health care** in our community. They knew that robust local health care would be foundational to maintaining a healthy, vibrant community.

The Muscatine Community Health Foundation was created as a result, and **originally owned** the current clinic building. This was, and still is, a highly innovative model – where the community creates **the space** for local health care **giving benefit** to the health care partner through a **preferred lease arrangement**.



In 1984, the Muscatine Community Health Foundation changed its name to the Muscatine Health Support Foundation and added an interesting component to the ownership model. They began granting a **substantial portion** of the annual lease payments received for the Clinic building back **into the community** in support of county-wide **health related projects and needs**.

This perpetual granting model has, as of today, granted \$6 million back to the community for growth and development of our local health care system, providing 329 grants to 79 different area organizations. What we have found from our research is this innovative, double bottom-line, community solution developed by our predecessors is highly effective and unique.

In 2017, the Muscatine Health Support Foundation dissolved, transitioned all assets to the Community Foundation, **and entrusted us** with the responsibility to **carry their legacy forward**. **This is how the Community Foundation came to own the Clinic building**.

Current Facility

The current 30,000 square foot clinic facility averages 50,000 visits annually and provides internal medicine, pediatrics, family practice, gynecology, and surgery services. However, the 48-year-old building is aging and has regulatory concerns being **temporarily mitigated**. Upon careful review, it was determined that a new three-floor 42,000 square foot clinic facility was the **best option to meet the long-term needs**, ensuring there was more space to **attract providers and grow specialties**. The building will allow for **growth** of new provider spaces.

Current Service

Trinity Muscatine has been recognized as a **Top 100 Rural & Community Hospital**, placing it in the **top 5%** in the country. They received a (CMS) 4 Star rating for four consecutive years and are a **“Leapfrog A” rated hospital**, which is the **highest**

grade in hospital safety. The Muscatine clinics also achieved annual recognition with the **National Center for Quality Assurance for Patient Centered Medical Home.**

Project Goals

The project goals remain the same today as they did 48 years ago.

- To provide a **safe facility** for healthcare professionals to practice and patients to receive their care.
- To improve the ability **to recruit and retain health care professionals** to our rural community. The current patient to primary care physician ratio in Muscatine County is 2,130:1, compared to 1,350:1 in Iowa.
- And, most importantly, **ensure continued local presence of accessible, quality, local health care.**

Economic Impact

Strong local healthcare is a **foundational component** of the County system and a **key resource** for communities. **Without strong, local health care**, many will **choose not** to live and raise their families here. **Providing preventive care** is the most critical and effective way to **address health issues while simultaneously affecting academic and economic success.** The new facility will enable **more equitable access** for all who live in our rural community.

Community Commitment

We received 23 county-wide letters of support for this project from corporations, organizations, schools, college, and government agencies. Following are a few reflections:

- “Our area corporations have mentioned that one of the most popular questions of potential employees is healthcare.”
- “Lack of individual health equates to a reduction in academic progression and success.”
- “16% of children are in poverty in Muscatine County - Local access to quality healthcare **is imperative** for these families.”
- “... now more than ever it is critical to do all we can to reinvest in much needed infrastructure to create a vibrant community that can provide top notch services for its citizens.”
- “There are other options within driving distance, within the Quad Cities and Iowa City. However, this assumes that people have the luxury of time or reliable transportation to travel for care. Having access in their own community allows for preventive care that provides family stability and creates a trusting relationship with a physician.”
- “The request for this funding and the support garnered for a new clinic are one more example of how Muscatine County community members work together to solve issues that are important to all county residents.”

Revenue Sources Committed

Before we began asking, generous support for the project began. This is **another indication** of the importance of strong local health care. Thank you to these major contributors, and many other individual and business donors!

- KENT Corporation
- Muscatine Health Support Fund
- CBI Bank & Trust
- Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust
- Howe Foundation

- Muscatine County
- Musco Lighting
- HNI Charitable Foundation
- MidWestOne Bank
- City of Muscatine
- Community Bank & Trust Co.
- Jack & Christine Michaels Charitable Fund
- Trinity Muscatine Friends
- Holthues Trust
- Stanley Consultants Charitable Foundation
- Jensen Foundation
- Jimmy and Dani Kent

Project Plans

The new facility will **remain attached to the UnityPoint Health Trinity Muscatine Hospital** providing easy access to lab and radiology, in-patient and out-patient services, and service delivery for **emergent** issues. The adjacent location of the new facility **will allow for continued operation of the current clinic** during construction. The **proposed project timeline** has construction sitework beginning June 2023 and substantial completion in December 2024.



If you would like to support this project financially and have your donation matched by KENT Corporation, please contact Jamie Leza at the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine at jleza@givinggreater.org or by calling 563-264-3863.

The Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine is a qualified charitable organization and all donations to this project are tax-deductible.