



Care That Comes Full Circle

Before she ever wore scrubs or learned how to take a blood pressure, before she stood beside patients explaining what would come next, Sheccid Mejia was already part of the story unfolding at People's Health Clinic.

Her mother came here while pregnant with her, looking for care in a system that too often makes access feel out of reach. At the clinic, it was different. Someone saw her. Someone helped.

The details of those visits have softened with time, but what remains is a quiet understanding that this was a place where people showed up for one another when it mattered most.

Years later, Sheccid would walk back through those same doors, this time as a member of the team.

"I think I was always meant to come back here," she says.

On paper, the clinic serves thousands of individuals each year across Summit and Wasatch counties. It provides primary care, medications, specialty services: things that can be counted and summarized.

But the life of the clinic happens in moments that resist easy accounting.

A patient hesitates at the front desk, unsure how to explain what's wrong.

A parent watches closely as a provider speaks, trying to understand what their child needs.

Someone arrives late, apologizing, because getting there required more coordination than most people realize.

"We see everything that surrounds the medical issue," Sheccid explains. "Not just what's happening in their body, but what's happening in their life."

That difference is subtle, almost invisible from the outside; **it shapes what happens next.**



**"It wasn't enough
for her to
leave treated...
she needed to leave
knowing what to do
next."**

“The biggest thing is that donors aren’t just helping with one part of the visit.

They’re helping with everything around it. Transportation, medication, food, follow-up. It’s the whole picture.”



It was especially clear one afternoon when a patient came in with severe diabetes, her condition already nearing a critical point. She could not hear. She could not speak. The usual ways of communicating were not available.

With the help of a caregiver, Sheccid and the team found other ways to connect. They demonstrated, repeated, waited.

“It wasn’t enough for her to leave treated,” she says. “She needed to leave knowing what to do next.”

They taught her how to administer insulin, how to recognize what her body was telling her, and how to respond before crisis returned.

They stayed with her until comprehension replaced confusion, until the unknown became something she could manage.

Her ability to return home safely was the result of many small decisions: to stay a little longer, to explain one more time, to ensure care extended beyond the clinic and into the reality of her life.

Those decisions are not accidental. They are made possible by resources that allow care to be complete rather than partial: medications that would otherwise be unaffordable, programs that help patients get to appointments and home again, time to listen, teach, and see the whole picture.

“The biggest thing,” Sheccid says, “is that donors aren’t just helping with one part of the visit. They’re helping with everything around it. Transportation, medication, food, follow-up. It’s the whole picture.”

Inside the clinic, that support is cumulative, layered, and deeply human.

It touches not only the patient, but the family waiting at home, the work they return to, the stability that becomes possible when health is no longer uncertain.

For Sheccid, these moments have reshaped her sense of what is possible.

She began at the front desk, greeting patients and learning names. Over time, she became a medical assistant, standing in the room where lives quietly shift direction.

Now, she is preparing for the next step: pursuing a medical degree and carrying forward what she has learned into a future that once felt distant.

A full-circle moment, **made possible by generous donors like you.**

Meeting the Moment

In 2025, the path to healthcare became more difficult for many in our community.

Changes in public programs reduced access. Coverage gaps widened. For patients already living without insurance, the system became harder to navigate and harder to trust. Fear grew alongside uncertainty. Patients delayed care, avoided appointments, and carried questions they were not sure it was safe to ask.

But their need for care did not go away.

At People's Health Clinic, the response was not to scale back. **It was to step forward.**

While clinics across the country saw declines in visits, People's Health Clinic increased access. **Patient encounters rose by 18%.** More individuals and families were seen, treated, and supported at a time when care elsewhere was becoming less available.

This did not happen by chance. It happened because the clinic removed barriers that stood in the way of care. Patients were met with services they could access without fear. Language was not a barrier. Cost was not a barrier. Transportation, coordination, and follow-through were built into care, not left for patients to navigate alone.

Care was brought together under one roof. Medical services, behavioral health, women's health, pediatrics, and medication access were coordinated so that patients did not have to move from place to place piecing together solutions. They could receive the care they needed in a way that reflected the reality of their lives.

For many patients, it was the first time care felt consistent. For many, it was the first time it felt complete.

This kind of integrated care is uncommon. In most settings, healthcare is fragmented, dependent on insurance coverage, referral networks, and the ability to navigate complex systems. At People's Health Clinic, care is built around the patient, not the system.

That difference matters most in moments of uncertainty.

In 2025, when fear was high and options were limited, the clinic remained a place patients could rely on – a place where care did not change based on circumstance, where they could return, ask questions, and receive the support they needed.

That level of care is not guaranteed. **It is made possible by private support.** People's Health Clinic does not depend on a reimbursement system. It depends on donors who believe that access to high-quality healthcare should not be determined by income, insurance status, or fear.

In a year when so much was uncertain, your support created something steady.

You created access. You created trust. **You created care that patients could count on.**

And you ensured that when barriers rose, they did not stand in the way.

2025

By the Numbers

Because of you, we provided care for more patients in 2025 than ever before.



6,016

Adult primary care visits



2,100

Behavioral Health appointments



3,256

Obstetric and Gynecology appointments

Patient Overview



21,448

Patient encounters (18% increase YOY)

4,208

People seen

1,360

New patients

Beyond Medicine

493

Medicaid applications completed

882

Free transportation rides coordinated

Specialty Care

304

Pregnant women seen

328

Women received birth control

3,625

Imaging and subspecialty referrals

Medication Assistance

2,063

Patient assistance applications processed for free medications

\$3.7M

In medication savings

More Than Medicine

Dr. Tania Bodnar didn't set out to work in a community clinic.

Her career began in private practice, following the path many providers take. It was structured, predictable, and familiar. But over time, especially during the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, something began to shift.

The work that stayed with her wasn't the routine of scheduled appointments. It was the patients she couldn't stop thinking about when she went home.

Women who delayed care because they had no insurance. Women navigating work, family, and language barriers all at once. Women doing everything they could to build a stable life, and still falling through the cracks.

"I realized I didn't want to just volunteer occasionally," she says. "I wanted to be here. Consistently."

So she made a decision. She stepped away from private practice and chose to stay at People's Health Clinic.

That decision changed the course of her work.

Today, as Women's Health Director, her days are full and fast-moving. On Wednesdays, she moves between rooms, seeing patient after patient, often triple-booked to meet demand.

The pace is relentless, but it reflects something deeper: the number of people who rely on the clinic as their only access point to care.

Still, it's not the pace that defines the work. It's the moments in between.

The quiet conversations. The pauses. The shift when a patient begins to feel safe enough to say what's really going on.

"There's a level of trust that has to be built," she says. "And when it happens, you can feel it."



“There’s a level of trust that has to be built, and when it happens, you can feel it.”

“We’re looking at everything that affects a person’s life and trying to meet them there.”



Credit: David Jackson/Park Record

For many of her patients, that trust begins with something simple—being able to speak in their own language.

Dr. Bodnar, who speaks Spanish and shares cultural connections with many of the women she serves, sees how quickly that changes the dynamic.

And what she hears is often complex.

Many of her patients are working multiple jobs. Some are raising children on their own. Others are supporting families across borders, sending money home while trying to establish stability here.

Many do not qualify for government assistance because of their legal status. All of them are navigating systems that were not built with them in mind.

“They’re incredibly hardworking,” she says. “They’re doing everything they can to create a better future. They just need access to care that supports that effort.”

That understanding has shaped how care is delivered at People’s Health Clinic.

What began years ago as a mobile van offering basic services has grown into something far more comprehensive.

Today, patients can access women’s health care, behavioral health support, prenatal services, and medications: all coordinated, all in one place.

Because the reality is, health doesn’t exist in isolation.

We’re not just treating one issue,” Dr. Bodnar says. “We’re looking at everything that affects a person’s life and trying to meet them there.”

That might mean addressing a medical concern while also helping a patient navigate transportation. It might mean ensuring a mother receives prenatal care while also connecting her to additional support. It often means taking the time to understand what’s happening beyond the exam room.

And yet, even with that approach, there are limits.

She sees those limits most clearly when discussing long-acting reversible contraception (LARC), options like IUDs and Nexplanon that give women years of control and stability over their health and their futures.

“These are some of the most effective tools we have,” she says. “They can change the trajectory of someone’s life.”

But they come at a cost—around \$1,200 per device.

“We know what works,” she says. “The challenge is whether we can provide it.”

At the clinic, that decision is often shaped not by medical need, but by available funding.

Last year, People’s Health Clinic served more than 4,200 patients across more than 21,000 encounters—an increase from the year before, at a time when many clinics across the country were seeing declines in visits.

The numbers tell one story: growth, reach, demand. But for Dr. Bodnar, the meaning shows up in quieter ways. It’s the patient who comes back for a follow-up appointment when they didn’t think they would. The woman who begins to manage her health with confidence. The moment someone realizes they are not navigating this alone.

“When patients engage in their care, everything changes,” she says. “They start to feel in control again.”

That sense of control, of stability, of possibility, is what she works toward every day. It’s why she stayed.

And it’s why she returns, week after week, to work that is demanding, complex, and deeply human.

Our Volunteer Providers

The People’s Health Clinic is made possible in part by volunteer providers who donate their expertise to ensure that uninsured patients receive the same caliber of specialty care available anywhere in the country.

John Andrew, MD
Lori Andrew, MD
Steve Call, MD
Krista Clark, PT
Alekses Clifton, MD
Robyn Cohen, MD
Marie Couldwell, MD
Michael Darder, MD
Hamilton Easter, MD, PhD
Mark Goldfarb, MD
Joop Grevelink, MD, PhD

Mary Carole Harrison, MD
William Kleinman, MD
Sarah Kuestner, MD
Marissa LaRochelle, MD
Blair Lenhan, MD
Merrill Lewen, MD
Larry Lieber, MD
Richard Martini, MD
Jonathan Medler, PA-C
David Miller, MD
Mary Parsons, MD

Deepika Reddy, MD
Jamie Rubin, MD
Jeff Schiff, MD, MBA
Biljana Simikic, MD
George Tsatsos, DPM
James Vogel, MD
Robert Weingold, MD
Michelle Wilson, MD
Kelly Woodward, DO, MPH
Ben Zaniello, MD, MPH
Jamie Zussman, MD

Moments That Define Care

There are moments in healthcare that stay with you.

Not because they are dramatic or extraordinary, but because they reveal something essential about what it means to care for another person—a conversation that takes a little longer, a patient who returns not just healthier but more confident, a staff member who sees themselves reflected in the community they now serve.

Sheccid's story is one of those moments.

It reminds us that healthcare is never just about treatment. It is about access, trust, and whether someone feels seen and supported at a time when they may feel most vulnerable.

At People's Health Clinic, we have the privilege of witnessing these moments every day—in exam rooms, in quiet exchanges between patients and providers, and in the countless small decisions our team makes to ensure care extends beyond a single visit.

What makes this possible is not only the dedication of our staff, but the generosity of those who stand behind this work.

Because of you, patients can receive care without cost determining their options. Because of you, someone who might otherwise delay treatment can walk through our doors and know they will be helped. Because of you, our team has the time to ensure care is understood, not just delivered.

This is what transforms healthcare from a service into a relationship—and what allows stories like Sheccid's to come full circle: a family once cared for becomes a caregiver, a moment of support becomes a lifelong path, a community strengthens itself from within.

These are not outcomes we can fully measure, but they are ones we see every day.

As we look ahead, our commitment remains the same: to provide high-quality, compassionate care to those who need it most, in a way that honors the dignity and humanity of every person we serve.

We are deeply grateful to you for making this possible.

With appreciation,

Dr. Mairi Leining
Chief Executive Officer
People's Health Clinic



Credit: Jonathan Herrera/Park Record

What makes
this possible
is not only
the dedication
of our staff,
but the
generosity of
those who
stand behind
this work.

Ensuring care grows with the community—and remains personal for everyone it serves

The need for care in this community does not arrive all at once. It builds gradually, in ways that are easy to miss: a child who waits longer than they should for an appointment, a family managing a diagnosis without consistent support, a patient who delays care because getting there feels just out of reach.

At People's Health Clinic, these moments are not abstract. They are felt in the rhythm of each day, in the steady increase of patients who rely on the clinic not as a temporary solution, but as their only source of care.

For 27 years, People's Health Clinic has been the medical home for uninsured residents of Summit and Wasatch Counties: the hospitality workers, construction crews, housekeepers, landscapers, and childcare providers who make life in Park City work, and whose own families would otherwise have nowhere to turn.

That need has become especially clear in pediatrics. More children are coming through our doors. More families are depending on the clinic to navigate their earliest and most formative years of health. What began as a volunteer-driven effort has grown into something larger — something that asks for greater continuity, greater capacity, and a different kind of presence.

This spring, we welcomed Dr. Zainab Kagen, a dedicated pediatrician, to our team. The decision to add this role is rooted in something everyone here understands: shortening a wait time is not about efficiency. It is about what it means for a parent who has been worrying, or for a child whose care cannot be postponed without consequence. Access, when it arrives at the right moment, can change the course of a life.

At the same time, we continue to ask what care can become when it is not confined by reimbursement. A different question guides our decisions: not what can be billed, but what will make the most meaningful difference for the patient in front of us?

Our distinct model has drawn national recognition. In 2024, MacKenzie Scott selected the clinic for an open-call gift — an affirmation of both our impact and our approach.



Zainab Kagen, MD
Director of Pediatrics

Dr. Zainab Kagen, Director of Pediatrics, brings more than a decade of experience caring for children and families. A pediatrician and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Utah, she is passionate about ensuring every child has access to high-quality care and is proud to serve the community she calls home.

Credit: Jonathan Herrera/Park Record

The same question opens the door to innovation that is practical and immediate: tools that help detect illness earlier, systems that remove unnecessary barriers, approaches that let providers act with more clarity and confidence. These changes do not announce themselves loudly. Over time, they shape the experience of care for the people who depend on it.

There is a broader reality taking shape. Across the country, uncertainty is shifting how and where people can access healthcare. For many, the safety net is no longer supplemental. It is essential.

That shift is already being felt here. Patients are arriving in greater numbers, and more stories are unfolding within these walls. With that comes a responsibility, both simple and profound: as demand grows, the quality of care must not diminish. Every person who walks through the door deserves the same attention, the same dignity, the same commitment that has always defined this place.

The future of People's Health Clinic will not be defined by expansion alone. It will be defined by whether this standard can be held, even as everything around it changes. By whether there is still time to listen fully. By whether there is still space to respond thoughtfully. By whether care continues to feel personal, even as more people walk through our doors.

That is the work ahead. And it is already underway.

You are at the center of this clinic's future. We could not be more grateful.

A faint, stylized graphic of a stethoscope is visible in the background of the lower half of the page, which has a purple-to-blue gradient. The stethoscope is positioned on the left side, with its chest piece and tubing extending towards the center.

Thank you

for making this care possible, and for ensuring every patient gets the exceptional care they deserve.

We can't do this work without you.