



2009 Community Report



River Valley
Nursing Center

*providing nursing assessments to area residents and
connecting people with community resources*



Our Mission

Increasing numbers of people in Scott and Carver Counties are finding themselves without adequate insurance. People who are uninsured often have difficulty locating and accessing existing health care and social services and are often unaware that there are free and low-cost services available to meet their needs.

Within the Mission of the River Valley Nursing Center, lies the core of our working philosophy: "promoting the leadership role of nurses." RVNC helps people connect with existing services while offering high quality nursing assessments and health education.

Our Philosophy

- Experienced Public Health Nurses provide a complete individual and family assessment which includes financial, safety, shelter, health and dental care, and emotional and mental health status.
- Care is then provided at the Nursing Center as appropriate with appointments and/or referrals made as necessary.
- Community Health Workers/Spanish translators provide the necessary language assistance to insure that information is obtained and provided competently to all clients and their families.
- Services provided include: blood pressure and glucose screening, pregnancy testing, medical follow-up, medication review, health education and free flu vaccines.

Did you know?

- RVNC has had nearly 1,400 client visits to date
- 100% of our clients are uninsured
- 40% of our clients are repeat visitors
- More than 50% of our clients are minorities
- Nearly 1,500 referrals have been given to social service agencies and medical clinics

We are a United Way Agency.

From the Board Chair



The River Valley Nursing Center is entering its fifth year of service in our community and I am proud to say I've been a part of this project for that entire time. When a small group began to meet in 2003 we didn't know that we were going to create a nursing service delivery model for people lacking insurance. We only knew that we were committed to doing something about this challenge facing so many people in our community. We have passed many milestones since that time:

- Created a pioneering care delivery model that emphasizes the leadership role of nurses.
- Received major funding from the Park Nicollet Foundation, St. Francis Regional Medical Center, the United Way, St. Francis Foundation, and the St. Paul Foundation as well as wonderful gifts from Rotary Clubs of Shakopee and Prior Lake, and St. Victoria Church.
- Achieved over 30% return visit rate from clients demonstrating the trust level they have in our services and integrity.
- Built trust in our community, especially with the Latino community who make up 49% of our clients.
- Hired an Executive Director to help us take this model to the next level and replicate it in other communities.
- Expanded hours of operation at our Shakopee site.
- Added a second location in Chaska.

Since the Nursing Center opened in April 2005 the number of people without insurance in our community has risen steadily. We are grateful to do our part to help and are proud to be making a difference in our community in such a meaningful way. Our clients continue to tell us about the impact we are making in their lives to improve their health. These efforts strengthen the health of our entire community.

We look forward to achieving our next milestones. Thank you for your support of the River Valley Nursing Center.

Merrilee Brown MA, BSN, RN

Client Story #1

Joe, a 16-year old male came to the Nursing Center seeking assistance controlling his diabetes until he could be reinstated into the Medicaid program. His blood glucose was 259 mg/dl and only had five days worth of medication remaining. His mother feared the consequences, "Without help, he will be in the Emergency Room this weekend."

River Valley Nursing Center was able to assist the client in securing an appointment at St. Mary's Health Clinic and ensuring he had enough medication through International Diabetes Center.

The nursing center also contacted the Medicaid case worker to follow up on his application.

The intervention RVNC provided met the family's needs and an expensive emergency room trip was avoided.



Client Story #2

Maria had been seen at the Nursing Center for various health needs. On one visit, she brought a large medical bill she'd received for emergency services. She had been contacted by a collection agency and was concerned that she did not have the money to pay for it by the due date.

Nursing Center staff contacted the collection attorney, explained the bill, and helped her set up a payment plan. The language barrier impaired her ability to solve a problem and our translator helped her in a caring and understanding manner.

Persistence in helping clients work to solve their problems is one of the strengths of the River Valley Nursing Center staff.

Collaborative Partners

Allina Hospitals & Clinics
CAP Agency
Carver County Public Health
Park Nicollet Health Services
Scott County Public Health/Human Services
St. Mary's Medical Clinic
St. Francis Regional Medical Center

Current Board Members

Andrea L. Anderson; Allina Medical Clinic – Shakopee
Mary Bothof, RN; community member
Merrilee Brown; Scott County Public Health
Barbara Dickie; St. Mary's Health Clinics
Amber Kahnke; Park Nicollet Clinic
Joan Lynch; community member
Ben Ohlander; Klein Bank
Jennifer Romero; CAP Agency
Carolyn Schmidt; Carver County Public Health
Tamara Severtson; St. Francis Regional Medical Center
Suzanne Woolery; community member
Barbara Zell; River Valley Nursing Center

Grantors Since 2005

Cash donations:

St. Francis Regional Medical Center
Greater Twin Cities United Way
St. Francis Foundation
Park Nicollet Foundation
El Fondo (St. Paul Foundation)
St. Victoria Catholic Church
House of Prayer Lutheran Church, Richfield
Rotary Club of Prior Lake
Rotary Club of Shakopee
Prior Lake Lions Club
Fairview Health Services

In-kind contributions:

Allina Medical Clinic
Park Nicollet Clinic
St. Francis Diabetes Education
Scott County/Anchor Center space
CAP Agency/Chaska space
St. Francis Auxiliary
Matt Risken, MD
Fairview Health Services

Health Care Services and Community Resources

River Valley Nursing Center serves uninsured and underinsured people in Scott and Carver counties connecting them to local resources and free or low cost health care services.

In Scott County:

Mondays, 1:00 to 6:00 pm
Anchor Center
752 Canterbury Road
Shakopee, MN
(Next to the CAP Agency and Thrift Store)

In Carver County:

Thursdays, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
CAP Agency
110650 Village Road
Chaska, MN
(Adjacent to the District 112 Early Childhood Center in Jonathan)

**No Charge for Services
No Appointments Needed**

Call 952-496-8669 for a message.

Clínica de Salud Preventiva y Recursos de la Comunidad

Esta clínica atiende a personas con o sin seguro médico en los condados Scott y Carver. Le ayudamos a localizar otros recursos de la comunidad y servicios médicos gratuitos o de bajo costo.

Condado Scott:

Los lunes de 1:00 p.m.a 6:00 p.m.
Anchor Center
752 Canterbury Road
Shakopee, MN
(Al lado de la Agencia CAP y tienda de segunda)

Condado Carver:

Los jueves de 1:00 p.m. a 5:00 p.m.
Agencia CAP en Chaska
110650 Village Road
Chaska, MN
(Junto al Centro para la Niñez Temprana Distrito 112 en Jonathan)

**Servicio gratuito
No se necesita hacer cita.**

Llame al Tel. (952) 496-8669 para escuchar mensaje.



752 Canterbury Road • Shakopee, MN
110650 Village Road • Chaska, MN

