



HERE WE GROW AGAIN!

New Health Center Location Opens within Giles High School

We are thrilled to announce that we have opened a fourth site within Giles High School (GHS) in Pearisburg. This extraordinary development was the result of years of planning involving Center leadership, Giles High School administrators and nurses, and other key stakeholders within the Giles community. This combined medical (including a laboratory) and dental site opened on August 23rd. Renovations to a space adjacent to the school band room occurred over the summer and on the first day of school, we served our first patient!

School-based Health Centers are not a new concept, but they are unique. The advantages are obvious: vastly improved health care access for youth, school faculty and staff, fewer absences, improved school performance, a healthier student body, and the promotion of lifelong healthy behaviors. However, not many communities are able to overcome the significant challenges of funding, space, and logistics. We did, and we're rejoicing!

Our School Center offers medical care daily through our on-site LPN and a Nurse Practitioner who provides diagnostic and treatment services for acute and chronic illnesses and injuries. She can give vaccinations, prescribe and monitor medications, connect patients with appropriate specialty care, conduct sports and school-entry physicals—everything that a family practice provides.

Through an adjoining space, we also have a hygienist and dental assistant on-site providing exams, and preventive and restorative services. With our new dental mobile equipment, the dental team travels to other Giles County Public Schools during the week. We have already served students who tell us that they have never seen a dentist and we've had the ability to relieve them of their mouth pain.

Students and employees at every Giles County Public School are eligible to receive services at the GHS site.

Telehealth, from one school to the other is an available option. As with all our Health Center sites in the New River Valley, everyone is served regardless of ability to pay or insurance status.

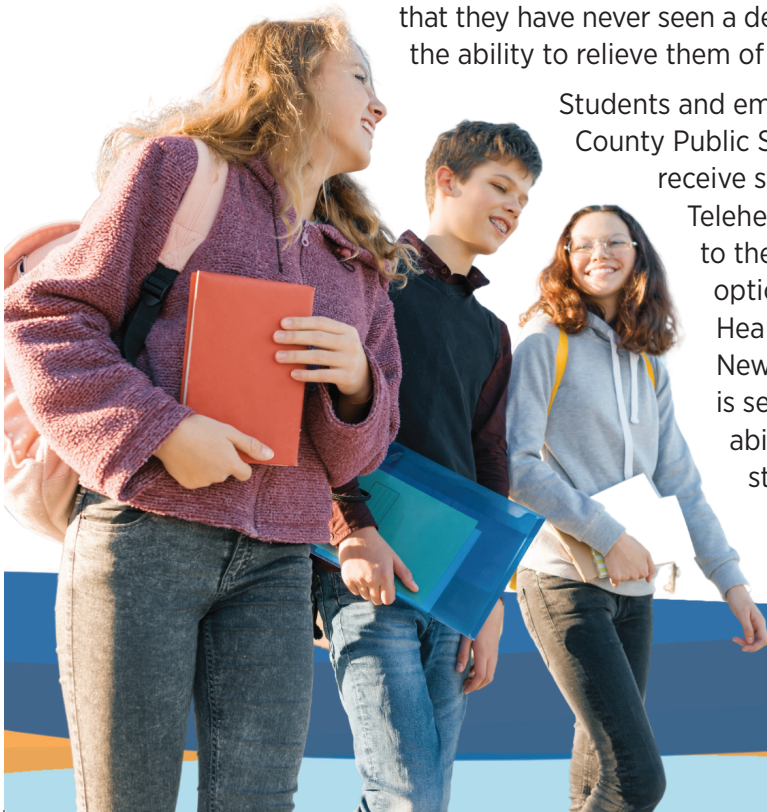
HIGH IMPACT

During the first 12 weeks of operation, the new health center site at Giles High School had served the medical and dental needs of 121 students and staff. If not for the accessibility of the in-school site, many would have gone without immediate care.



For more information about our GHS site, contact us:

CHCNRV at Giles High School
Erika Slagel-Perry, LPN
1825 Wenonah Avenue
Pearisburg, VA 24134
(540) 824-2194



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chcnrv.org

FINGER ON THE PULSE

CHCNRV Responds to the Needs of Patients Affected by the Opioid Epidemic

Our philosophy is that of treating the whole patient—head to toe—with services that are coordinated and integrated. And we have been doing this successfully for many years. Behavioral health care services, including substance use services, are an essential component of integrated care. As most are aware, the national opioid epidemic has hit rural Southwest Virginia very hard, and the COVID-19 pandemic escalated the problem. In response, we became a partner in a federal initiative, the “Rural Communities Opioid Response Program.”

We have spent the past year conducting a needs assessment, surveying our patients, bringing together stakeholders, and creating a plan for improving access to life-saving treatment and recovery services for those suffering from addiction.



One of the first positive developments to result from this work is the creation of a Peer Recovery Services program to the array of behavioral health services we offer at the Center. A grant from the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Disabilities Services supports this expansion.

Three certified Peer Recovery Specialists with “lived” experience are now on staff and available to support, coach, assist, educate, and mentor any patient receiving substance use services at our Centers. Community education and stigma-busting campaigns are also being planned for 2022.

We provide affordable, high quality services to patients of all ages:

Primary Care

Routine Health Exams
Adult and Pediatric Well Visits
Sick Visits
Gynecological Care
Joint Injections
School, Sports, Work Physicals
Family Planning
Health Education
(Weight Management, Diabetes, Nutrition, Etc.)
Access to Prescription Medications
COVID and other vaccines
(Flu, Tdap, Pneumonia, Etc.)

Dental Program

Oral Examinations
Cleanings and Routine Dental Visits
Extractions, X-rays, Oral Surgeries, Fillings, and Gum Treatments
Crowns, Bridges, Partials, and Dentures

Behavioral Health Program

Traditional Counseling Services
Behavioral Health Consultation
Group, Individual, and Family Counseling
Medication Assisted Treatment

We accept patients:

- with Medicare, Medicaid
- with private insurance
- without insurance coverage

We offer a discount fee program to all who qualify.

FOCUS ON OUR MISSION

Caring for the Health of Afghan Refugees

Our mission to provide health care regardless of circumstances and ability to pay is being demonstrated in a very visible way this fall. We are now working in collaboration with the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership (BRP) to provide health care services to Afghanistan evacuees who recently arrived in the New River Valley.



In November, four families of adults and children were served by our medical practitioners at our Christiansburg and Dublin sites. Hosts from the BRP accompanied them to increase their comfort with a modern American health care environment. A telephone-based language service that provided translation in Dari and Farsi was used to ensure good communication.

Our Chief Medical Officer, Dr. David Roberts states: “These individuals had experienced highly traumatic emergency evacuations from their homeland. For

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Community Health Center of the New River Valley is to provide affordable and high quality medical, dental, behavioral, and preventive health care services to people of all ages and circumstances, regardless of ability to pay.

their safety, most traveled with no identification, so their lives are slowly being pieced together in America. Many had never experienced the thorough medical care that we are able to provide. Many tears were shed that day, as grief coupled with relief bubbled to the surface.”

When the day was done, Drs. Rebecca King-Mallory and Pete Guerra had completed physical exams and treated an array of acute conditions. Prescriptions for needed medications are being filled by Blacksburg Pharmacy as a contribution. Now that we have established relationships, the care we are providing will be ongoing. Many refugees are also being served by our dental program—an unexpected but greatly appreciated benefit.

True to our mission, we will continue to serve the health care needs of any refugees fortunate enough to pass through or settle in the NRV. Our thanks to the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership for their arrangement and facilitation of these services and if readers would like to learn more or contribute to the BRP, please go to their website at blacksburgrefugeepartnership.org.

Left to right:
Dr. David Roberts,
Dr. Rebecca King-Mallory, and
Dr. Pete Guerra



IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OUR PATIENTS

State-of-the-Art Blood Pressure Control Program Underway

The pandemic continues to change many aspects of the way that health care is delivered. Now we understand that some of those changes are beneficial and will endure. One of the positive changes is a convenient new method for monitoring hypertension. This is a notable development for us as we are currently serving nearly 700 patients with a diagnosis of hypertension.



Thanks to a hypertension grant, we are able to provide hypertensive patients with an easy-to-use, at-home blood pressure cuff. These innovative cuffs are blue tooth-enabled, so that they can transmit readings directly to our nurses. Patients are better able to monitor progress and be alerted to any dangerous trends—all from the comfort of home.

In-office visits are needed less frequently, resulting in fewer life disruptions for patients and greater cost efficiencies for the Center. Patients with hypertension are also provided with one-on-one education and counseling to improve healthy behaviors and monitoring practices.

“Patients now have better control over their health. Through education on lifestyle, diet, activity, and self-monitoring, and more frequent exchange of information with their provider, people are experiencing great results.”

~ Misty Henley, Care Coordinator

Before the pandemic, we were able to adequately control the blood pressure of 57% of our patients with hypertension. With this new technology, we expect to improve that outcome to above the national “Healthy People 2030” goal of 61%.

If you are a patient, or would like to be a patient and could benefit from our hypertension control program, please call our Center for an appointment: 540-381-0820.



During this holiday season, please consider a gift to support our work and our mission. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All gifts will be acknowledged for tax purposes.

LOCATIONS

Montgomery Center
215 Roanoke Street
Christiansburg, VA 24073
540-381-0820

Giles Center
219 South Buchanan St.
Pearisburg, VA 24134
540-921-3502

Radford/Pulaski Center
5826 Ruebush Road
Dublin, VA 24084
540-585-1310



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