**Case Study: Clinic-Community Connections at Maple City Health Care Center**

Maple City Health Care Center (MCHCC), is a community health center that was awarded federally qualified health center (FQHC) status in 2012. MCHCC serves about 3,000 patients in Goshen, a small mid-western town in North Central Indiana. It was founded in 1988, by a group of young Mennonite activists who had identified health care needs in the community as a vital social justice issue. The founders worked closely with community residents to identify their priorities and establish the clinic. Patients access specialty services through the local hospital’s charitable care program. MCHCC became a FQHC in 2012 after 25 years as a private non-profit 501 c3 organization.

The clinic offers programs that promote community engagement and help address the community’s social determinants of health. The social justice perspective affects all aspects of the clinic’s culture and operations. Many of staff members of engaged in helping develop and run these programs. Oversight is provided by board members, the Guardian of Programs and the Guardian of the Vision. Another staff member with training in community organizing is responsible for organizing events. These programs include:

* **Elementary school scholarships** - MCHCC supports a scholarship fund at the local elementary school.
* **Our Futures Together** – MCHCC partners with the local elementary school to address the social determinants of health. This program convenes the community to talk about issues that matter to them to help people understanding one another better and address difficult issues in their community.
* **Centering Pregnancy and Doula Services** – MCHCC offers a nurse led-program to all pregnant women at the clinic. The nurse at the clinic recruits the participants, organizes the group sessions, matches participants with doulas who are either clinic staff or community members, and goes to the hospital and sees the moms post birth to support breastfeeding initiation. The group sessions focus on creating a supportive peer group for childbearing women and providing childbirth education.
* **More Than Money (MTM) program** – This program allows patients who have no insurance and cannot pay for their care to get cash credit for volunteer work. This contributes to the community as a whole and allows patients to feel that they are earning their health care.
* **Community Garden** – MCHCC has a community garden behind the clinic where they invite the community to come work in the garden and share the harvest. The clinic’s nutritionist helps coordinate the community participants and participates in the gardening. The group works together in the garden and hosts shared meals using the produce the grow together .
* **Board of Directors** – MHCCC has engaged key community leaders to serve on the governing board.

MCHCC sustains most of these community-based programs through paid and volunteered staff time. They also heavily subsidize their care through grants, donations and their FQHC reimbursement. MCHCC also is in the unique position of being located in a heavily Mennonite community with a strong culture that rejects capitalistic consumption and promotes non-violence and social justice. As a result many staff members are willing to work for lower than market wages and/or volunteer their time.