

# 50 Years of Touching Lives Through Health: A Timeline

## Health Care is a Right and Not a Privilege

The story of Marin Community Clinics begins in 1972 when a group of local volunteer doctors and nurses founded **Medical Contact Services of Marin**. The mission was simple: to provide free health care and screenings to anyone who needed it.

### 1972



**Medical Contact Services of Marin** begins operating out of **Episcopal Church of Our Savior in Mill Valley** and **Fairfax Community Church**

**2,300 patient visits** provided in its first year of operation



Throughout the remainder of the decade, **free episodic health care & screenings are provided** to people of all ages without discrimination

### 1980's

#### Adapting to Meet the Need



Nationally, community health centers gained popularity concurrent with the need for low-cost community clinics dedicated to serving low-income and uninsured people. Statewide, an immigration surge brought profound cultural, economic, and political shifts. In Marin County, the Clinic's patient base shifted as well – with many new arrivals coming from war-torn Central American countries.

### 1987

By its 15th anniversary, the newly-named **Marin Community Clinic** replaces a largely volunteer team with a paid staff

Embracing cultural awareness and sensitivity, Marin Community Clinic **adds bilingual staff** to better serve the growing Spanish-speaking population



**Al Varner, MD, longtime volunteer doctor**

*"In the 1980s, healthcare was very different. Indigent patients didn't have anywhere else to go except for the emergency room. So, the ER was their first contact in most cases. Oftentimes, people who had trouble communicating or understanding directions fell through the cracks or were too late to receive attention. The ER was their primary care doctor."*

# 1990's

## From Emergency to Preventative Health Care

Thanks to strong connection and collaboration with Marin General Hospital (now MarinHealth), the Clinic established a permanent location. Patients began to receive **consistent, comprehensive medical services** and could rely on Marin Community Clinic as their medical home.

**1991**

Marin Community Clinic moves to 250 Bon Air Road, Greenbrae – located on the grounds of Marin General Hospital



**Together we can create a healthy community,  
one person at a time**

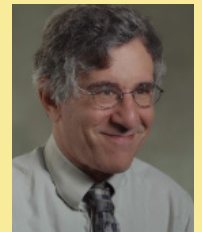
**1993**



Marin Community Clinic becomes a **Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)**: Federal funding now covers partial costs of uninsured patients; strict quality and management standards are met

### **Michael Harris, MD, former Board Member**

*Becoming a Federally Qualified Health Center was a game changer for the Clinic. It allowed the organization to get cost-based reimbursement, which was 5x's more than what they were previously able to get from Medi-Cal for seeing the same patient. It gave the Clinic the ability to provide coverage for patients who were uninsured or underinsured, and it allowed the hospital to alleviate ER wait times by referring non-emergency care and encouraging people to establish care at Marin Community Clinic.*



**8,056 patients served in 30,075 visits:** Increased funding and a stable location brings continued growth and boosts access to services

**1998**





# 2000's

## From Surviving to Thriving

By the 2000's the organization was at a crossroads. To keep up with the needs of the community **expansion was critical**. Having already earned the trust of the community it served, the Clinics garnered the attention of local officials, community leaders, and most importantly, generous donors.

### 2001

The organization expands, opening a clinic in Novato to serve Northern Marin

### 2003

More clinics; more jobs: **Paid staff reaches 80 people**

### 2005

Word about excellent and compassionate care spreads within the community: **12,816 patients served in 44,417 visits** – 30% of patients uninsured



### 2006

**14,240 patients served in 47,947 visits**

### 2007

Marin Community Clinic is renamed as **Marin Community Clinics**, pluralizing *Clinics* to reflect the organization's multiple sites



**Ann Reppun, NP, employee since 2004**

*"I have watched the leadership guide this institution...it's not an easy job! It's everyone, the leadership and the boots on the ground. We all have the same goal of excellent patient care for this underserved community. That makes me really proud to work here."*



### 2008

A pivotal **Building a Healthy Future** campaign generates \$9.8 million, funding a state-of-the-art medical & dental clinic at 3110 Kerner Boulevard in San Rafael

### 2009

**San Rafael Clinic opens and dental was launched** within the new clinic

Campaign funds allow for **the relocation of the Novato Clinic** to 6100 Redwood Boulevard



# 2010's

## Meeting the Need

A commitment to “whole-person” care, key partnerships, and an evolving understanding of social determinants of health brought new funding to Marin Community Clinics. Meeting the community's need meant adding a multitude of additional services.

### 2010

Clinics expand services; offer patients **behavioral health, family planning, and gynecology services**

Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, a **new dental clinic opens** adjacent to the Novato medical clinic

### 2011

**Marin Community Clinics begins delivering obstetrics care** in a transfer of services from the County of Marin; opens clinic on County of Marin's Health & Wellness Campus in San Rafael



*Linda Tavaszi, PhD, former Board Member and Chair; CEO from 2011 to 2017*  
“What I have seen at the Clinics over 35 years, and what I believe has contributed to its success over the years, is love. It is an operation of love.”

### 2012

Marin Community Clinics becomes a recognized **Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH)**, increasing focus on patient access and self-management, chronic disease management, and care teams

Clinics **offer in-house pharmacy service**, providing added convenience and discounted prescriptions

### 2013

Clinics partner with **University of California School of Optometry (Berkeley)**, launching an optometry program

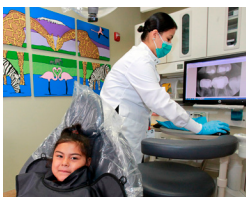
### 2014

**Clinics open Health Hubs** – weekly ‘mini health fairs’ offering free nutritious food, nutrition education, health screenings, and more

### 2015 & 2016

Clinics offer **Radiology** providing convenient on-site diagnostic x-rays

### 2016



**Novato South Clinic opens** with dental, radiology, lab, pediatrics, and behavioral health

### 2018

Clinics partner with the **Tamalpais Union High School District** to provide health screenings and services at high schools

County of Marin's **Infectious Disease Services** transition to Marin Community Clinics



### 2019

County of Marin's **Fourth Street Dental** office in San Rafael transitions to Marin Community Clinics

**Marin hit by massive fire-prevention power outages; Clinics remain open** with the help of emergency generators

# 2020's

## Adapting to Change – Resilient Health Care

Marin Community Clinics is the largest nonprofit community health center in Marin. The Clinics' mission is **to promote health and wellness through excellent, compassionate care for all.**

The **COVID-19 pandemic changed the world.** Its lasting impact adversely affected the Clinics' patient base, exacerbated the need for public health services, and continues to bring about new challenges.

## Touching Lives Through Health

### 2020



A branding overhaul brings a fresh look

Clinics pivot to telehealth care within 5 days of initial Shelter-in-Place shutdowns; a testament to the organization's ability to adapt

COVID-19 pandemic hits Marin County – Clinics teams mobilize and adapt to rapidly changing guidelines

Clinics partners with County of Marin to test patients, staff, and the community for COVID-19; opens COVID-19 Respiratory Clinics to treat infected patients

#### Melanie Thompson, DO, Chief Medical Officer

*"The greatest joy in vaccination is not just the deep gratitude expressed by patients but also seeing the joy of all of our staff. With every vaccine we give, we know that we may be preventing entire families from experiencing immeasurable grief."*



### 2021

39,179 patients served; 263,083 visits; 577 employees

Vaccines become available January 2021; the Clinics immediately become a major vaccine hub

Clinics launch **Campaign for the Next Decade** to fund: the Greenbrae Clinic, West San Rafael Clinic, San Rafael Dental Complex, and recruitment and retention

Greenbrae Clinic opens; expands care for adults and older adults

The Clinics commits to reducing Green House Gas emissions, strategically implementing ongoing green initiatives



### 2022

West San Rafael Clinic opens; expands access to telehealth care services and in-person care as needed

To boost dental capacity, renovations begin at 411 Fourth Street in San Rafael; expansion expected to be completed in 2023

#### Mitesh Popat, MD, MPH, Chief Executive Officer

*"Health care is foundational for well-being. At the Clinics, we believe that it doesn't matter who you are, you will have access to quality health care. That drives our work every day. We will continue to work toward a healthier future, inspired by our important legacy."*

