



Free Medical and Dental Care

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Dr. Darnell:

As a non-traditional student at NKU in the 70" s, I was surprised at the comment a fellow student made. She noted that I had an easier time communicating with patients and wanted to know the reason. I recall telling her that I had a lot more experiences and therefore had more in common with the patient. I had thought about that intermittently over the years. When I had a chance to discuss communication with the present students, that conversation came back to me.

I enjoyed the freshness in their voices and the good questions the students presented. I hope I imparted that the best part of communication is listening and feedback. Because of my work in the community as a nurse practitioner dealing with multi-ethnicities, I realize the importance of good communication. Being able to communicate on the learners' level is vital. More the a few cannot read or write any language making it essential to ascertain the message was received as sent. As nurses we are taught to have the patient "verbalize understanding of what has been taught" by a "return demonstration."

Participation in their learning experience was a grace for me. Hopefully, I was able to communicate well! I wish I could have been able to share in person; however, this pandemic has certainly stretched education. When we finished, I could not believe our time was up – it went so fast!

We also very much appreciate the monetary award. Although our clinic is scaled down due to COVID-19, we still welcome new patients each week. New patients generally get a panel of blood work to monitor kidney and liver function, especially with diabetic individuals. A quarter of our population from 2020 are diabetic. Last year we obtained a grant for diabetic eye exams and glasses as needed for 30 patients. We exceeded the funds from that grant and will use the funds from the Mayerson Foundation to continue providing this very needed service.

The following is a summary of the medical clinic services we provided last year – despite closing for quite a few weeks due to the pandemic:

MEDICAL CLINIC

<i>Patients</i>	Total	230
	New	86
<i>Visits</i>	763	
<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>		
	AfAm	7%
	Hisp/Lat	41%
	White	47%
Other	5%	
<i>Sex</i>	Female	57%
	Male	43%
<i>Age</i>	5 mos — 76 yrs	
<i>Chronic Conditions</i>		
	Tobacco use	45%
	Hypertension	34%
	Diabetes	24%
	Mental health	22%
	COPD/asthma	13%

COUNSELING/ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST

<i>Patients</i>	15	
<i>Visits</i>	51	
<i>Sex</i>	Female	66%
	Male	34%

Our Facebook is “Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing” and website is www.f dofmary.org

Mother Seraphina joins me in thanks you for this opportunity and for the grant.

Sheila Carroll, APRN
Executive Director

