



**Report of St. Benedict Health and Healing Ministry  
(A Diocesan Institution)  
To the 133rd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Colorado  
October 8-10, 2020**

Our **Mission** is to improve the physical, mental, and spiritual health of those people in our community who have need but who lack access to health care resources. Our **Vision** is one of a community:

- Where suffering is alleviated,
- Where holistic health and healing are available to all,
- Where health and healing are understood as integration of body, mind, and spirit,
- Where people are met and seen with hospitality and compassion, and
- Where connections are fostered:
  - o between the uninsured and the underinsured and health care providers,
  - o between the individual and God, and
  - o between organizations dedicated to health and healing.

**Members**

Our work succeeds on the basis of relationships, which permeate all aspects of this ministry. Effective relationships require active listening, being present and showing respect. This begins with our Board of Directors:

Mr. William Eliason, President -St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, Boulder  
Ms. Kathy Fox, Treasurer -St. John's Episcopal Church, Boulder  
Ms. Mary Doran, RN, Secretary  
Rev. Deacon Jan Dewlen -St. John's Episcopal Church, Boulder  
Rev. Michael Houlik -St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, Boulder  
Rev. Lucy S. L. Amerman- St. John's Episcopal Church, Boulder  
Charlotte Ricchetti, PharmD  
Marsha Ruggeri, RN  
Shelly Dierking, Executive Director

**Executive Summary**

St. Benedict Health and Healing Ministry has continued to care for our patients during the COVID-19 pandemic with a focus of loving our neighbors as ourselves, striving for justice, and respecting the dignity of every human being. As we have faced the many challenges of our ministry we know that God walks beside us and guides us in our work.

We have had to adapt during COVID-19 in order to be able to continue to provide health services for our vulnerable populations. As local area churches and community centers closed their doors to the public, we no longer had indoor space with which to hold our weekly clinics. To meet this challenge, we have continued to care for our patients by holding outdoor clinics. We have purchased additional needed supplies in quantities not previously budgeted such as disinfecting supplies, personal protective

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equipment, hand sanitizer, and additional equipment specifically necessary for COVID-19 operations, such as infrared, no-contact thermometers.

Knowing that the cold weather months are not far off and with no end to the pandemic in sight, we are working diligently to raise additional funding to be able to purchase a mobile clinic unit. The healthcare needs of our vulnerable populations have not decreased during COVID-19. In fact, our patients need us now more than ever. As many have lost full-time employment they have also lost their health insurance. We provide much needed supplies, education, and resources about how to stay as safe as possible during the pandemic. We also continue to provide the basic primary healthcare services that are the core of our mission. We believe that with a mobile clinic unit we will be able to provide care for more patients in communities that often do not have access to transportation to come to us. We also foresee that once a Coronavirus vaccination is available, being able to help bring an end to the pandemic by quickly and broadly vaccinating as many as possible.

In the past year we held 121 Free Clinics that provided 1050 free healthcare services for 681 patients. The most important aspect of our wonderful ministry has not changed...the commitment of everyone involved to provide a safe and comforting space for the medically underserved of Boulder County. Whether we check a blood pressure, assess an acute illness, discuss the importance of a seasonal influenza vaccine, provide foot care, or take the time to truly listen, the connections we make with our clients are invaluable...both to our clients and to our volunteers.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our work!



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