

**Report of St. Benedict Health and Healing Ministry  
To the 128<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Colorado  
October 1-3, 2015**

**Respectfully submitted:  
Rev. Sally Bowersox, Executive Director**

*Behold, I will bring to them health and healing;  
I will let my people see peace.  
Jeremiah 33:6*

Our **mission**: St. Benedict Health and Healing Ministry is an oasis of care, offering an environment of hospitality as we respond to the real human need for physical, emotional, and spiritual healing.

Our **vision**: We envision a community where suffering is alleviated, where holistic health and healing are available to all.

St. Benedict Health and Healing Ministry provides no cost basic health care to medically underserved and underinsured adults in Boulder County. **This equates to 40,458 people in Boulder County between the ages of 18-64 without health insurance.** Of course, these numbers do not reflect those adults over the age of 64 nor those who are underinsured.

### **Executive Summary**

The past year has proved to be another exciting time period for St. Benedict Health and Healing Ministry. Our volunteers have been profoundly moved and honored to serve those adults in need of health care services. There are countless situations of tragedy and destitution amongst folks in Boulder County. As we have witnessed via our Free Clinics, the need for health care services has only increased and multiplied. As well, financial challenges remain a constant reminder of the reality the majority of those we serve live with everyday. In the strength and dedication of one another, we have found abundance and have tried our best to pass this abundance on to each and every patient we encounter.

Over the year we expanded our outreach in Longmont by continuing our Free Clinic every Thursday at the OUR Center. In addition, our new partnership with Longmont Community Health Network lead us to hire two paramedic volunteers who work with our nurses at the clinic providing much needed community health care liaison and transportation.

Our Don Burt Community Care Program grew by leaps and bounds, serving over 3,200 individuals in 2014! Volunteers in this program hand out much needed OTC (over the counter) medications and basic health care supplies to folks staying at the Emergency Warming Centers in Boulder.

In 2014:

- ✓ Over 40 volunteer Health Care professionals, Spanish translators and other volunteers provided greater than 9300 Health Care services to guests via 12 Free Clinics per month and the Don Burt Community Care Program!
- ✓ Over 45 key volunteers provided over 3000 hours of volunteer time equating to \$108,044 Value of Volunteer Service Time!

Two new programs were launched in 2015. The first is a formal partnership with Dental Aid. Patients are referred to Dental Aid and assisted with their dental fees via SBHHM's Medical Financial Assistance Program. Our hope is that this new venture will provide dental health for many individuals. Dental health is critical to the overall systemic health of the individual. The second program launched in June of this year is our intentional outreach to veterans. Our hope is to connect veterans with other agencies such as Veterans Helping Veterans Now and the Wounded Warriors Project ensuring these individuals have access to the services they need.

SBHHM is enthused and excited to be a critical link on the health care continuum for Boulder County, a point of access to health care and a safety net for those who would otherwise fall through the cracks in the health care system.

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