

In 1993, the Academy of Medicine of Franklin County (now the Columbus Medical Association) opened an evening walk-in, episodic care clinic in the downtown area for homeless and other medically indigent individuals. This effort was to increase accessibility and availability of healthcare services and to link persons to ongoing primary care providers. The Physicians Free Clinic (PFC) operates a weekly walk-in clinic at Columbus Public Health and has evolved into the largest free clinic in our community.

In 2003, Access Health Columbus established the infrastructure to support a Voluntary Care Network (VCN). The goal of the VCN is to demonstrate the ability of Access Health Columbus to incrementally build an organized voluntary network to link low-income uninsured residents with medical homes and improve access (reduce delays) to specialty care. Access Health Columbus and the Columbus Medical Association proactively and voluntarily consolidated the operations of the Physicians Free Clinic and the Voluntary Care Network (PFC/VCN).

To best reflect the combined essence of core services and to allow for future programs and efficiencies to be created that would be a part of our mission, PFC/VCN changed its name to Physicians CareConnection (PCC) in 2013. PCC is the umbrella organization that represents our core competencies. We are the largest coordinator of voluntary health care services in Franklin County with over 1000 primary/specialty care doctors and 12 hospitals participating. Doctors have a choice in how they volunteer to see patients. They can see patients in a "physical" clinic that is operated on Monday nights (Physicians Free Clinic) or they may see the patients in their offices (Voluntary Care Network).

Physicians CareConnection has accomplished the following:

- More than 40,000 patients have been helped through coordinated medical services
- Over 2,000 doctors, medical students, residents, and other healthcare professionals are currently volunteering their services to low-income uninsured people in our community
- Donated services with a combined total value of over \$50 million dollars, with a return on investment of 500%
- Filled 50,000 prescriptions for those who would otherwise be to access and afford necessary medication
- 5,000 student volunteers interested in medical professions and 3,0000 community volunteers have donated their time to support our operations
- Continued provision of free primary and specialty medical services
- Community partnerships with health and social service organizations to provide diabetes and nutrition education, access to mental health services, physical and occupational therapy services.

