



VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE  
**CLINIC**

*Giving the gift of health*

# The Need



Over the last 10 years health care costs have risen twice as fast as salaries across our country. Florida ranks in the top five states with the most expensive insurance and health care, costing the average resident 14% or more of their income. With 67% of all Florida jobs paying less than \$20 per hour, and 51% paying less than \$15, it is easy to see why paying for insurance and health care is so difficult for many.

## 38%

of Martin County households struggle to meet the basic costs of living.

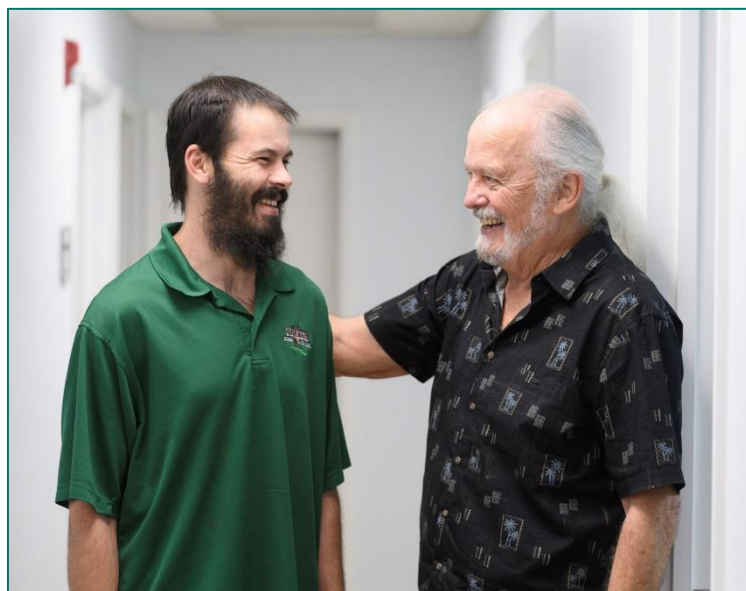
## 16,000

Martin County residents live at or below the federal poverty income levels.

## \$5,000

is the amount the average person spends each year on health care in Florida.

As costs rise, there are increasing disparities in health based on income. With your help, we can change this for Martin County residents. Together we can work towards the goal of health equity and ensuring all of our neighbors have access to high quality primary and comprehensive health care so that they can continue to be productive members of our community. **A contribution to Volunteers in Medicine Clinic will give the gift of health to someone who desperately needs it. Visit our website at [vimclinic.net](http://vimclinic.net) to donate online.**



# The VIM Model

At Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) Clinic, we use a combination of volunteers, a small paid staff, and business partnerships to deliver exceptional medical care at no cost to our patients.

## Volunteer Medical Professionals

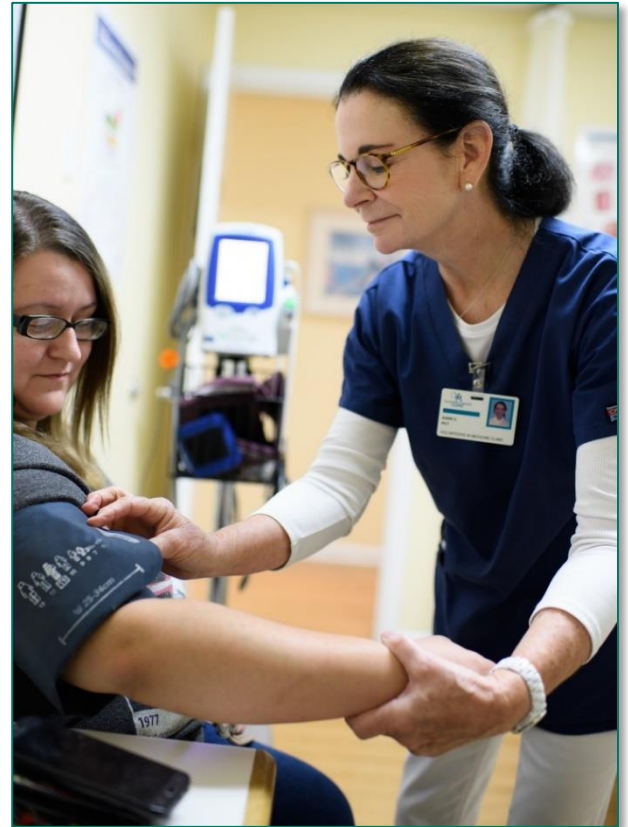
Martin County is fortunate to have many retired and currently practicing medical professionals who want to continue to serve patients in their areas of specialty including cardiology, urology, orthopedics, endocrinology, gastroenterology, ophthalmology, gynecology, and many more. Our volunteers love being able to practice the art of medicine, instead of worrying about the business of health care.

## Dedicated Primary Care Providers

We employ a small team of medical personnel to provide patient-focused primary care, manage medications, help improve the patient's health literacy, and coordinate treatments provided outside the Clinic. We also have social workers to support the patients with other needs related to their overall wellness like access to quality food, prescriptions assistance, transportation, and mental health services.

## Diagnostic and Treatment Partners

A key component of our success is the strong partnership with Cleveland Clinic Martin Health, our local hospital, and Diagnostic Imaging Services. These partnerships, along with several other medical practices and local businesses, allow us to provide preventive health screenings and treatments for cancer and other serious diseases, and have life-saving surgeries performed, all at no cost to the patient.



## Our Creed

*May we have eyes to see  
those who are rendered  
invisible and excluded,  
open arms and hearts to  
reach out and include  
them, and healing hands  
to touch their lives with  
love and in the process  
heal ourselves.*



# The Patients



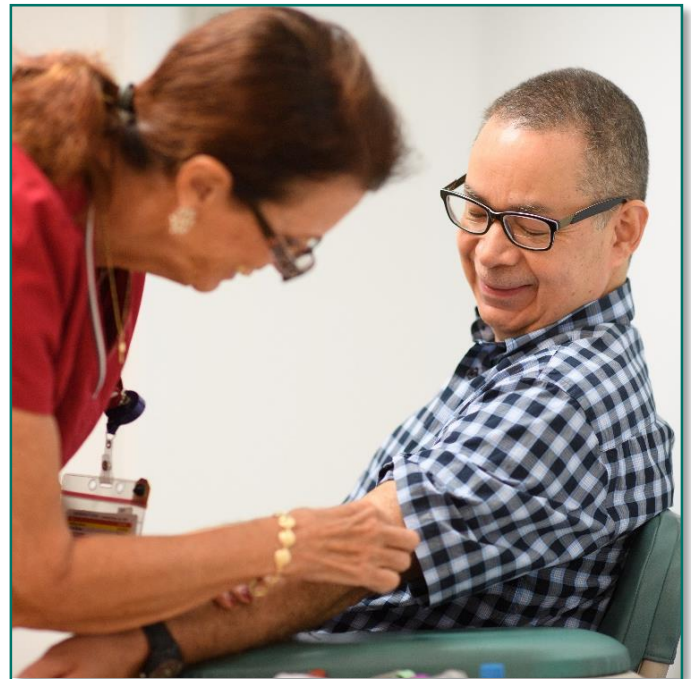
To be eligible for VIM Clinic services, a person must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Full-time, legal Martin County resident
2. Adult between 18 and 65
3. Be uninsured (no Medicaid or Medicare)
4. Have total household income less than or equal to 200% of federal poverty levels and have no other financial resources. For 2020 that equates to:
  - \$25,520 for an individual
  - \$34,480 for a two-person household
  - \$52,400 for a four-person household

Meet VIM Clinic patient, Ricardo, pictured right. Ricardo is 56 and has been a patient of VIM Clinic since 2014. He suffers from multiple conditions including Type II Diabetes, coronary artery disease, and kidney stones. Alan Eddison, DNP, APRN, is Ricardo's primary care practitioner and sees him on a regular basis to treat and monitor those conditions.

On July 1, 2019 Ricardo was seen urgently at the Clinic for shortness of breath. An EKG revealed that he was in 3rd degree heart block. He was immediately transported to the Emergency Department. It was decided he needed a pacemaker. This very scary situation was life threatening and potentially fatal had Ricardo not come in for his shortness of breath. Just a few months later, Ricardo faced two separate procedures to remove kidney stones. He was unable to work for 4 months.

Today, Ricardo is doing well and continues to be closely monitored by VIM Clinic and Stuart Cardiology Group. He credits the staff at VIM Clinic for making him feel comfortable enough to seek help when he was in pain.

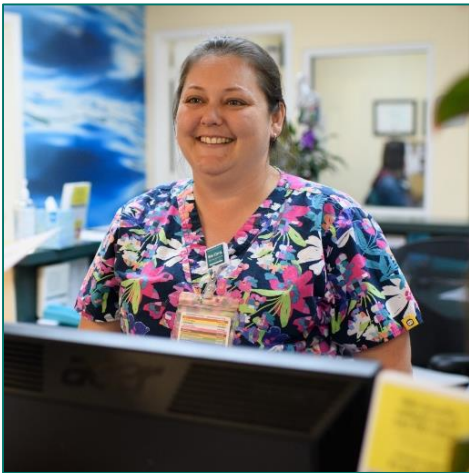


*"I first heard of VIM Clinic from a friend and when I walked in it didn't feel like a clinic. It was so warm and welcoming; everyone there was so kind and patient. I've had some scary situations this past year, but they were here for me. Now I'm back to work and I feel great!" - Ricardo C.*

# The Impact

## For Our Patients

People who have a primary care provider are more likely to have routine health screenings, refill prescriptions, spend less overall on healthcare, have fewer trips to the hospital, and manage chronic health conditions better than people who see only specialists. We provide whole-patient primary care with a team approach utilizing a diverse group of generalists and specialists to provide the best outcomes for our patients.



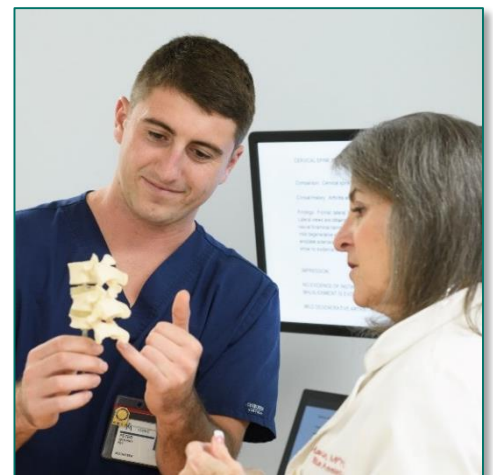
## For Our Health Care System

VIM Clinic benefits our overall health care system by reducing emergency department visits and hospital admissions. Emergency department visits for non-urgent issues are four to six times as expensive as other doctor visits and unnecessarily stress hospital resources. Catching and treating problems early, which happens during annual check-ups, is also cheaper than treating severe or advanced illness, which can result in extended hospital stays.

## For Our Community

Studies have repeatedly shown that access to quality health care leads to healthier communities. The benefits of a healthier community include a more productive workforce fueling future economic growth, higher rates of education, and lower crime rates, which makes Martin County a better place for everyone.

VIM Clinic does more than provide outstanding health care; it serves as a teaching site for medical and nursing students. Students often stay in the communities where they receive training and internships. An influx of young, skilled medical professionals is another benefit for our community.



*A healthy population is an engine for economic growth. - World Health Organization*

# The Financials







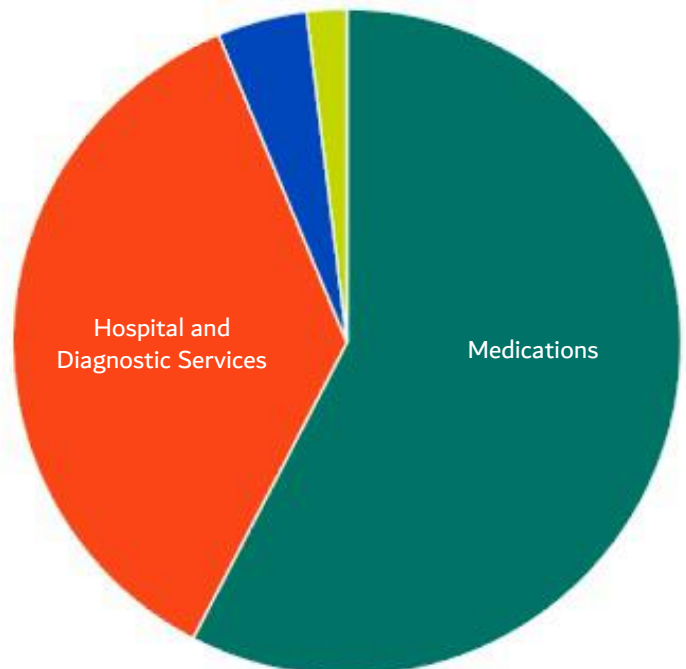
## 11:1

An investment of \$1 provides \$11 worth of patient care with VIM Clinic and its partners.

## \$12,700,000

In 2019, VIM Clinic was responsible for soliciting and coordinating \$12.7 million in donated medical services and medications.

-  \$7,312,520 in prescription medications
-  \$4,582,858 in hospital and diagnostic services
-  \$551,654 in donated medical services delivered at VIM Clinic
-  \$244,750 in donated specialty services delivered offsite at local specialist offices



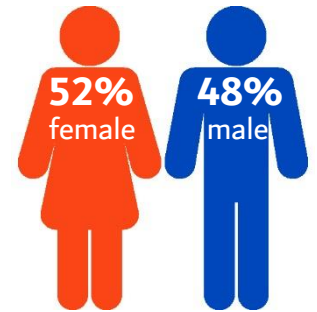
The VIM Clinic cash budget in 2019 was \$888,000 and \$10 million in patient services were delivered which includes \$9.1 million in in-kind services. Funding for the Clinic breaks down as follows:

- 10% Individual Donations
- 50% Grants
- 40% Special Events

# The Statistics

**1,092**  
patients served in 2019

**227,478**  
patient visits since 1995

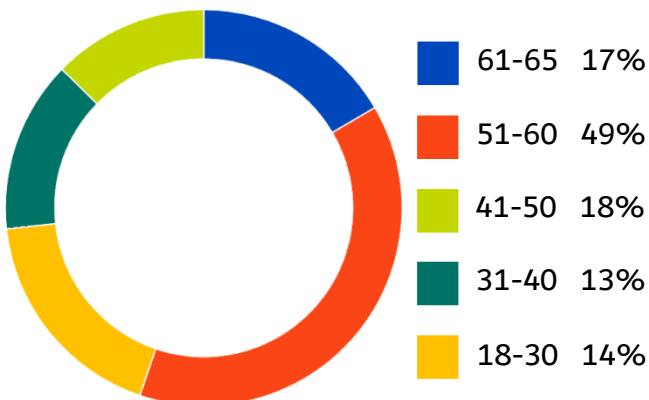


**76%**  
of patients work  
full or part time

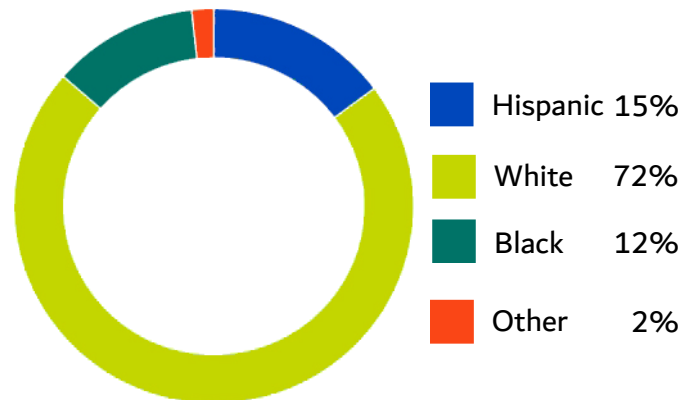


**7,871 hours**  
of services at the Clinic provided  
by 89 volunteers in 2019

## Patient Age Ranges

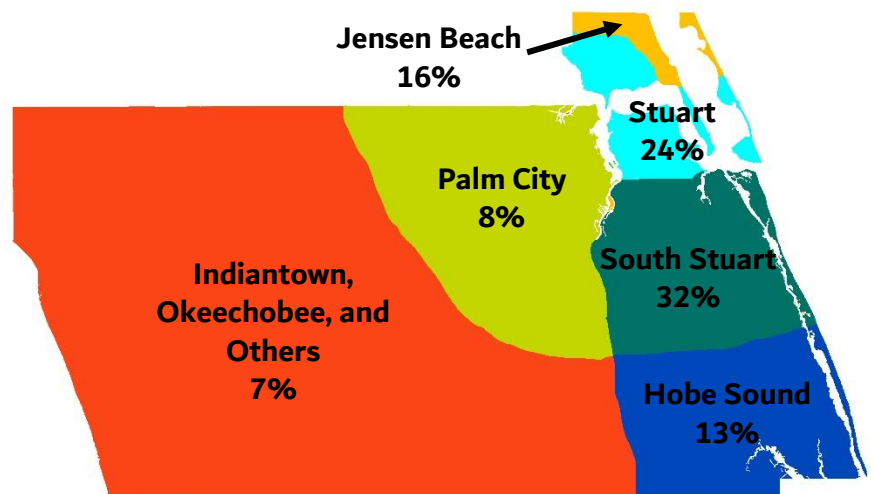


## Patient Ethnicity



**200**  
medical and nursing students  
trained and mentored at VIM  
Clinic since 2000

## Where our patients live in Martin County







**YOU** can give  
the gift of health.



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# The Next Steps

Ensuring everyone has access to high quality healthcare has big advantages to our community. With you on our team, we can eliminate barriers for our neediest neighbors and help them lead healthier, more productive lives. Your donation has a 11 to 1 return on your investment and helps you further your personal mission to help those less fortunate. Our model has proven, repeatable successes. A recent review of patient outcomes revealed that VIM Clinic patients with multiple, chronic health conditions were able to maintain or improve vital health measures like blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar thanks to the support and monitoring of their primary care providers.



There are many ways you can join The Friends of Volunteers in Medicine Clinic and help us achieve our goal of health equity in Martin County. One of the most vital is a donation to support our operating expenses, which ensures our doors will remain open in good times and in challenging times like the recent COVID-19 pandemic, economic downturns, or after a hurricane. To give you an idea of how much your contribution can do, consider that:

- \$1,000 provides life saving diabetes monitoring equipment for five patients
- \$2,000 fills ten cataract eye medication prescriptions saving ten patients' sight
- \$5,000 provides hundreds of Uber rides to and from appointments to the Clinic and other specialists for patients without transportation
- \$7,500 provides specialty cleaning services for six months at the Clinic
- \$10,000 fills our prescription assistance voucher program for an entire year
- \$15,000 sponsors medical technology for a year to manage patient records, communicate with other providers outside the Clinic, and deliver telemedicine services
- \$25,000 covers part of the salary of a social worker to screen potential patients for eligibility and to conduct outreach and education programs
- \$35,000 ensures our medical supply closet is full of personal protective equipment and exam materials for our providers for two years
- \$50,000 pays our building maintenance, insurance, and utilities for one year

*Please call our Donor Relations Manager at 772-463-4128 x211 to discuss the next steps in your journey to give the gift of health to a neighbor in need.*

HELP  
HEAL  
HOPE



It all started when a handful of passionate doctors volunteered to start a free clinic with the local hospital in 1995. The team utilized the Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) Clinic model, originally founded in Hilton Head, South Carolina, to build their own free clinic located in Martin County, Florida. In 2001, our local VIM Clinic became an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Compassionate treatment and exceptional care have been the hallmarks of the Clinic where patients are treated like friends and neighbors. Highly skilled medical professionals volunteer their time to focus on direct patient care without worrying about managing a business. VIM Clinic cares for the whole patient by addressing their primary and comprehensive medical needs while also supporting their other social service needs. Our goal is to help our patients achieve and maintain their overall wellness.



The Friends of Volunteers in Medicine Clinic  
417 SE Balboa Avenue, Stuart, FL 34994  
772-463-4128      [vimclinic.net](http://vimclinic.net)