

# Wellness on Wheels

Improving Access to Health Care Across Santa Cruz County



**Dominican Hospital  
Foundation.**

A Dignity Health Member





## Preventative health care to those who need it most.

Dominican Hospital Foundation's funding initiative, Wellness on Wheels, is a new campaign to enhance health care access provided by our Mobile Wellness Clinic and significantly impact the availability of vital medical care in Santa Cruz County.

Dominican Hospital's existing Mobile Wellness Clinic is a 38-foot mobile medical van that helps address community needs by providing patients with episodic health and preventive services at no cost. Services are provided by a multidisciplinary team of nurse practitioners, allied health professionals, and clinic coordinators. Operating Monday through Friday, the program targets the under-served and uninsured population and reaches the broader community.

Wellness on Wheels is about more than just health care. It's about empowering patients to take control

of their health and well-being and supporting our community. While the existing program serves the community well, the campaign to expand services is an opportunity to enhance the level of care provided to Santa Cruz County outside the walls of the hospital. The Mobile Wellness Clinic aims to improve health care access and delivery to our most vulnerable patient populations.

Ultimately, mobile health aims to find and care for people who can't afford treatment. People in under-served areas tend to be high-risk populations that are high users of emergency departments. Mobile units help reduce emergency room visits and prevent chronic conditions from advancing to the degree that patients need more intensive and higher-cost care, often in a hospital setting.

# Supporting Community and Innovations in Health Care

Dominican Hospital is a not-for-profit leading provider, with a long-standing mission to address the health care needs of Santa Cruz County. Started by the Adrian Dominican Sisters, we have cared for the community for more than 80 years and continue to serve all patients regardless of their circumstances or ability to pay. Today, our 222-bed hospital annually treats more than 52,000 emergency department visitors and admits 14,500 patients.

## Why it is Important

Within our community many individuals face barriers to health care, the Mobile Wellness Clinic is a vital resource for prevention.

---

### Barriers to Health Care:

- Primary location and proximity to hospital or clinics
- Transportation
- Insurance and ability to pay
- Housing and Food Insecurity
- Language
- Education

While the existing program continues to serve the community, we see great opportunity to enhance the level of care provided to our most vulnerable populations throughout Santa Cruz County with the right resources and philanthropic investment.

The Dominican Hospital Foundation seeks funds to acquire a new, functionally-appropriate Mobile Wellness Clinic. Our current van is more than 13 years old and nearing its end-of-use. The current van's patient flow is not conducive to care due to space and safety limitations.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mobile Wellness Clinic performed over 1,800 visits annually. Funds will also support eight new screening events, expand flu and other vaccine access and will ensure patients are able to achieve the continuum of care they deserve despite their financial situation.

Your donations will make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most and help build a stronger, healthier, and more connected community.

**Prevention:** We deliver health education, which reduces overall medical costs, addresses behavior and lifestyle choices, and helps motivate families to improve and maintain their health.

**Treatment:** We provide services ranging from immunizations, preventive check-ups, and treatment for chronic and/or acute illnesses.

**Referral:** Our team works with patients and their families to access ongoing care and resources such as eye and mental health screenings.

---

### Upgrades for Consideration Include:

- Two patient exam rooms
- Patient registration and waiting area
- Lab draw area complete with medical fridge and freezer for lab specimen
- Medically-fit HVAC system
- ADA-compliant restroom and wheelchair lift
- Exterior awning, and custom vehicle wrap for community awareness

In addition to the Mobile Wellness Clinic as a free-service, funds may also be used to cover patient's medical expenses beyond their initial screening or site-visit such as: dental appointments, behavioral health counseling, physical therapy, colonoscopy appointments, medications, copays, and other surgical needs.

## Proposed Two-Year Budget:

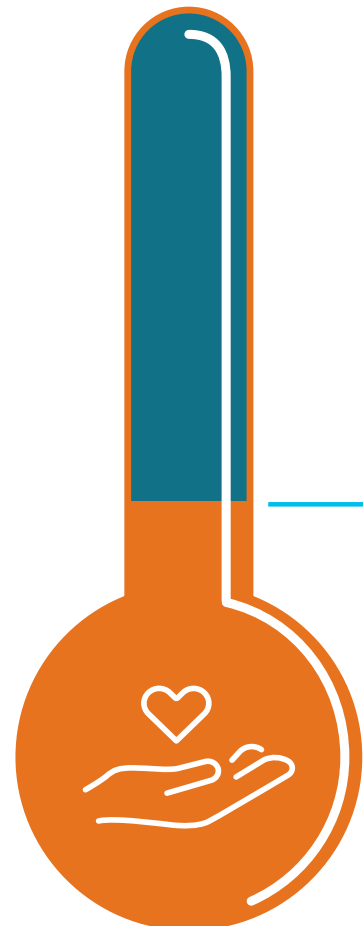
The following budget lists estimated costs to expand and enhance the Mobile Wellness Clinic with new technology and care providers.

Operating Costs .....	\$1,350,000
Purchase a new mobile wellness van .....	\$575,000
Eight Community outreach events .....	\$160,000
Patient Assistance.....	\$50,000
Screening event supplies.....	\$10,000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$2,145,000</b>

### The expansion plans include:

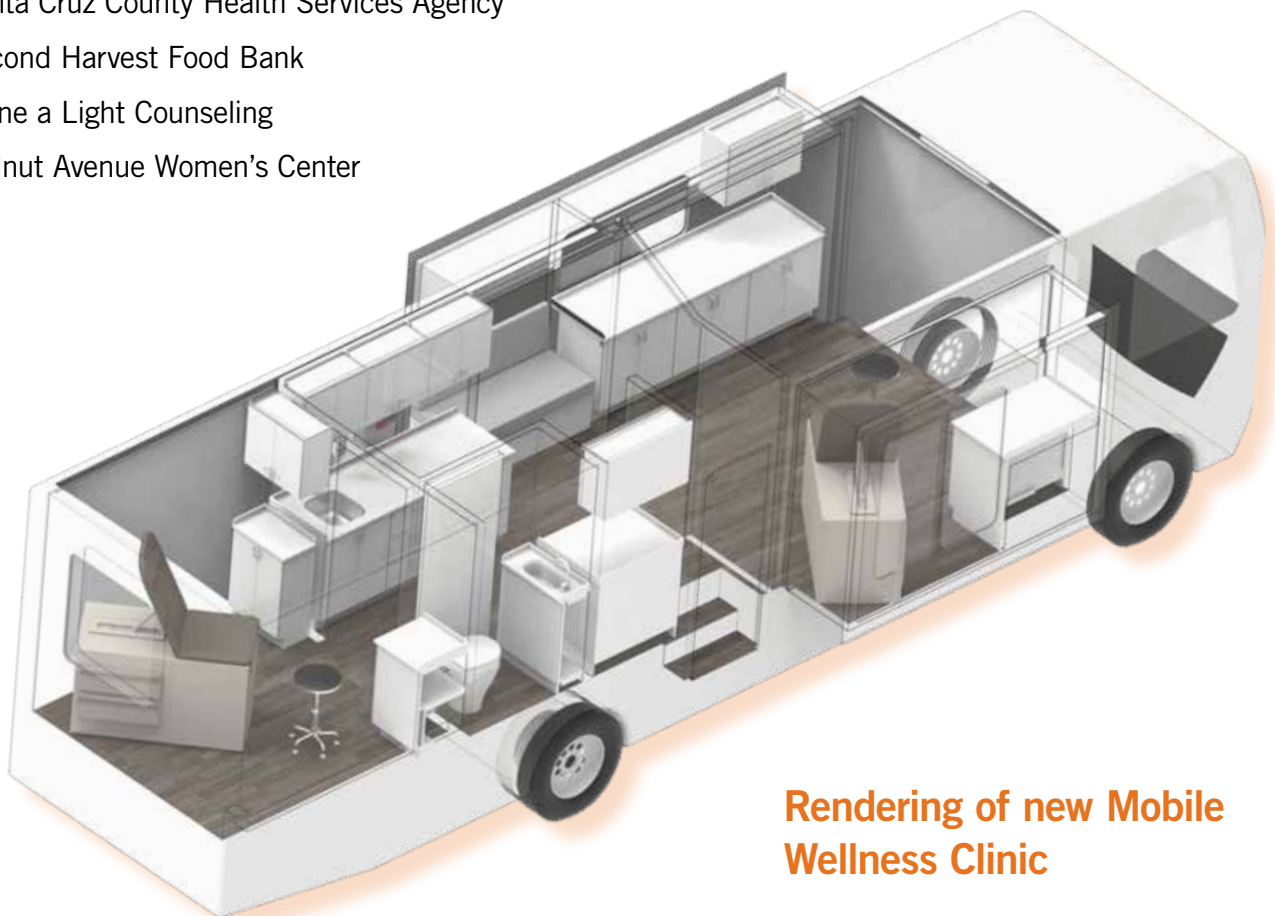
- Acquisition of a new mobile medical vehicle to enhance efficiencies and patient offerings.
- Increase availability to the working population by expanding service hours to varying times and locations across Santa Cruz County.
- Enhance episodic and preventative care, Medi-Cal insurance registration, patient referrals, vaccination clinics, general health and cancer screenings, and ongoing patient monitoring for diabetes, hypertension, and cholesterol.
- Deliver services to a broader patient demographic: uninsured, under-insured, and anyone with barriers to health care.
- Provide health screening events and community education for diabetes, heart disease, high cholesterol, and cancer through collaboration with the hospital's Katz Cancer Resource Center.

\$1M raised  
of \$2.145M



## The Mobile Wellness Clinic Resource Connections in our Community:

- Catholic Charities
- Clinica del Valle de Pajaro de Salinas
- Community Bridges / Puentes De La Comunidad
- D'Arrigo clinic at Natividad Hospital (Monterey Co residents)
- Dientes Community Dental
- Dignity Health Wellness Center
- Katz Cancer Resource Center
- Live Oak Health Center (formerly East Cliff Family Health Center)
- Monarch Services
- Planned Parenthood
- RotaCare Santa Cruz
- Salud para la Gente
- Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- Shine a Light Counseling
- Walnut Avenue Women's Center



**Rendering of new Mobile Wellness Clinic**

## An Investment in Community Care

In support of the Wellness on Wheels campaign, the Dominican Hospital Foundation has received a transformative \$1 million charitable gift towards the \$2.145 million goal.

**“Our Mobile Wellness Clinic is a lifeline for those who may otherwise struggle to receive the care they require,” says Nanette Mickiewicz, MD, President/CEO of Dominican Hospital. “With this momentous donation, we can work towards our goal of expanding the Mobile Wellness Clinic’s reach and enhance its capabilities.”**

Anthony Pagliaro, Chief Philanthropy Officer of the Dominican Hospital Foundation, adds, “Dominican Hospital extends its deepest gratitude to the anonymous donor for their unwavering commitment to improving health care access and recognizing the importance of community well-being. Their investment in our Mobile Wellness Clinic will undoubtedly save lives, empower individuals, and create lasting positive



**“Our Mobile Wellness Clinic symbolizes hope and serves as a beacon of health care equity, striving to bridge the gap and improve health outcomes for those most vulnerable in our community.”**

Nanette Mickiewicz, MD  
President/CEO of Dominican Hospital

change. With this significant milestone, Dominican Hospital is energized and optimistic about reaching our campaign target. Each contribution brings us one step closer to our shared goal. Charitable support from our donor community provides the funds, dedication, and passion that drive our progress in keeping Dominican Hospital at the forefront of excellence.”





## Learn More

For additional information about the **Wellness on Wheels Campaign**, please get in touch with the Dominican Hospital Foundation.

---

### Contact Us

- Call **831.462.7712**
- Email **[givingtodominican@dignityhealth.org](mailto:givingtodominican@dignityhealth.org)**
- Visit **[supportdominican.org/mobile-wellness-clinic](http://supportdominican.org/mobile-wellness-clinic)**
- Follow **[@dominicanhospitalfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/dominicanhospitalfoundation)**



**Thank You!**

---



**Dominican Hospital  
Foundation.**

A Dignity Health Member

1555 Soquel Drive  
Santa Cruz, CA 95065  
831.462.7712

[supportdominican.org](http://supportdominican.org)