



Bluestem  
Health

# 2025 Annual Report





## From Our Board Chair and CEO

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Dear Friends and Partners,

Looking back on the past year, we want to thank everyone who supported Bluestem Health's mission. Our progress shows how much we all care about making healthcare accessible and affordable, and about building a stronger community. We especially want to thank our staff and board members for their dedication and hard work every day.

This year, Bluestem Health worked to strengthen our clinical team, support our nurses, and improve our facilities. We welcomed new primary care clinicians, offered incentives to help recruit and retain Licensed Practical Nurses, and completed projects, such as a new parking lot, updates at Kreshel Clinic, and improvements to the Main Clinic waiting room. These steps show how we use resources wisely, work well together, and focus on changes that make care better for our patients.

Our Board of Directors and staff are committed to a long-term vision that aligns our mission with financial stability. Guided by our strategic plan, we prioritize robust programs, informed decisions, and transparency. This approach enables Bluestem Health to address current needs and prepare for future challenges.

Thank you for continuing to trust Bluestem Health.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad L. Meyer, FACMPE".

Brad L. Meyer, FACMPE  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Bagley".

Kevin Bagley, DHA  
Board Chairperson

# Serving the Healthcare Needs of Our Community

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Bluestem Health began serving the Lincoln area in September 2003. Services were provided at 1021 N. 27th Street, the same location where our Main Clinic is today.

In 2025, our services reached 21,396 patients with almost 68,000 patient visits. Averaging 3.1 visits per patient, these numbers speak volumes about the trust and satisfaction the community places in our care.

Our employees consistently demonstrate their passion for delivering high-quality care to our patients. We prioritize creating a positive and supportive work environment, providing ongoing educational opportunities, and offering exceptional benefits to ensure employee satisfaction and foster long-term careers.

## Our Mission

**To be a trusted resource  
for excellent medical,  
dental, and behavioral  
health services.**



## Coworkers Caring For One Another

*Sam, one of our former team members, was at work when he learned his mother was dying in Omaha. Since Sam doesn't drive, Shane Ludwig, our COO, offered to take him directly to the hospital in Omaha. When they arrived, Shane told Sam to simply call whenever he needed a ride back to Lincoln, and he would take Sam home.*

*Our CEO, Brad Meyer, picks Sam up about once every other month just to take him out to eat for breakfast or lunch.*

*These acts of friendship are a few of the ways we see our team looking out for each other in times of need.*

# Integrated Healthcare Team and Services

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Bluestem Health continues to be the only healthcare center in Lincoln that uses an integrated care model, offering Family Medicine, Behavioral Health, and Dental services through one organization. Managing the continuum of care for our patients helps to improve their health and quality of life.

## Medical

From acute care to disease management, individuals and families have access to primary care and pediatric care staffed by family medicine and pediatric physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants.

## Dental

Whether it's routine care or emergency dental services, our dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants provide patients with advanced dental care.

## Behavioral

Our in-house team collaborates with family medicine and pediatric providers throughout our clinics to provide comprehensive care for patients who need it.

## Cost Matters

*Our team helps patients find a path through the cost of care. In one case, an uninsured patient with complex medical needs required medications, labs, and services from several places. Our team gathered discounted options and an affordable plan, so the patient could actually get the care he needed.*



## Trust Changed the Whole Relationship

*For some patients, trust is something earned over time. One of our favorite patients actually began as someone who was guarded, easily frustrated, and hard to reach. But over time, his attitude changed when he saw how our team and providers showed up for him. He started calling often, sometimes just to talk. Near the end of his life, our team visited him in the hospital, knowing he had no family nearby who could visit. He's still remembered around the office, and his story is a constant reminder that everyone is going through something we may not yet understand.*



## Doing More for Patients

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In addition to medical, dental, and behavioral health programs, we offer many low-cost and free services, including:

- Diabetic Education
- Interpreter Services
- Outreach Services
- 340B Pharmacy Program
- Medication Assistance
- Legal Services through Legal Aid of Nebraska

Other departments that support the day-to-day operations of Bluestem Health include:

- Hospital Tracking and Referral
- Information Technology
- Compliance
- Medical Records
- Revenue Cycle Management

Our free interpreter services help patients communicate clearly with their care team in their preferred language. Bluestem Health offers in-person interpretation for appointments, scheduling, and follow-up calls across medical, dental, behavioral health, and patient support services. Interpreters are available in Arabic, Burmese, Karen, Kurdish, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

This diversity in language support reflects Lincoln's status as a welcoming community for refugees and immigrants. The city, designated as a 'refugee-friendly' location since 1970 and ranked among the Top 10 Most Welcoming Cities in America, is home to a vibrant population from over 40 countries.

# Caring for All People

Healthcare should meet patients where they are. That's why we're committed to providing primary, dental, and behavioral health when and where our patients need it.

**21,396**

Total Patients

**67,382**

Total Patient Visits

## Breakdown of Patient Visits



Medical



Dental



Mental Health



Case Management

Clinic Visits

**52,205**

**6,288**

**4,218**

**4,671**

Total Patients

**20,157**

**2,448**

**1,262**

**2,400**

## Breakdown by Insured, Uninsured, Medicare/Medicaid



Medicaid



Medicare



Uninsured



Private Insurance

**8,705**

**2,582**

**4,512**

**5,588**

Many of our patients were some of the most vulnerable in our community.

**16,016**

Income at 200% or below the federal poverty limit

**1,684**

Unhoused/  
Transitional

**417**

Veterans

**5,284**

Patients served in a language other than English

## New Providers



### **Brett Wergin, MD**

A Lincoln native who returned home after seven years practicing full-scope family medicine

in Fairbury, Brett Wergin focuses on building long-term relationships with patients and families, listening first, and making care decisions together. His clinical interests include preventive medicine, diabetes management, cardiology, and psychiatry.



### **Maxine Turvey, APRN-FNP**

Maxine takes a collaborative, education-focused approach

to care that helps patients feel informed and involved in their health decisions. Before joining Bluestem Health, she spent more than seven years in emergency medicine, an experience that deepened her commitment to accessible, proactive primary care. She works to build strong patient relationships and believes the best care happens when patients feel like part of the team.



### **Colin Grandgenett, PA-C**

Colin was drawn to Bluestem Health's mission of serving those who need care most, a

mission that feels personal because of his family's long connection to the organization. He works closely with providers, diabetic educators, nutritionists, pediatric coordinators, and case managers to create team-based care plans tailored to each patient. His approach centers on preventive medicine and helping patients make practical changes that support long-term health and daily life.

## Forgivable Loans for LPNs

To help address workforce needs and support the next generation of nurses, we introduced a forgivable loan program designed to reduce financial barriers for new graduates while expanding our ability to attract and retain nursing talent. We plan to continue to offer this program in the coming year.

For new LPN graduates, the program offers up to \$8,500 per year, with a total of up to \$17,000, tied to a two-year employment commitment. Loan amounts are forgiven annually when participants complete a year of service. After two years, participants become eligible for retention bonuses.

We also extended forgivable loan opportunities to current LPNs, offering up to \$5,000 per year under a similar two-year commitment structure. By introducing this program, we added a new pathway to reach nurses at different stages of their careers while strengthening long-term support for patient care in the community.

## 2025 In Focus



## Baby Showers

Our Spring and Fall Baby Showers welcomed many new and expecting parents, who came away with gifts, encouragement, and access to valuable community resources. With support from our wonderful vendors, managed care organizations across Nebraska, and primary sponsor UnitedHealthcare, our Outreach team connected families to care, education, and services in the community. The Baby Shower events are just some of the many ways our Outreach Team builds relationships throughout Lincoln.



## Patients do not always ask. Bluestem Health notices anyway.

*Often, the families under the most pressure are not the ones asking for the most help. They might come in overwhelmed, and our Case Managers notice what is happening. There have been countless times where our team members have pitched in to fill a need, whether that's helping pay for medications or donating clothes, providing gift cards, or helping buy essentials for families with almost nothing.*

*For a patient with diabetes, damaged shoes with a hole or a rip can be dangerous because wounds are often slow to heal and infections are hard to contain. When Dr. Israel saw the risk to a diabetic patient who had*



*worn-out shoes, he took off his own shoes and gave them to him. Then, he worked at the nurse's station in his socks until someone could bring him another pair from home. In one quick decision, Dr. Michael Israel turned a clinical concern into immediate protection. That's the kind of care Dr. Israel provides. He does not wait for a better moment or the perfect solution; he acts when the need is right in front of him.*

*In another case, a family came in with a newborn, and they did not have a bed for the baby. Everyone on our team contributed to donate a bed. Brad Meyer, our CEO, picked it up in his truck, and the team brought what they could to help get the family settled.*

# Our Locations

## Main Clinic

Behavioral Health  
Dental Care  
Diabetes and Nutrition Education  
Family Medicine

## Kreshel Clinic

Behavioral Health  
Diabetes and Nutrition Education  
Family Medicine  
Pharmacy

## Thompson Clinic

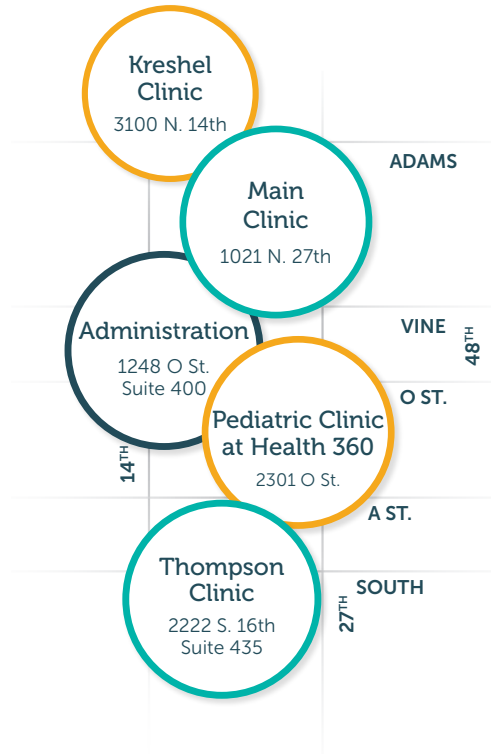
Behavioral Health  
Family Medicine

## Pediatric Clinic at Health 360

Behavioral Health  
Pediatrics  
Pharmacy

## Administration

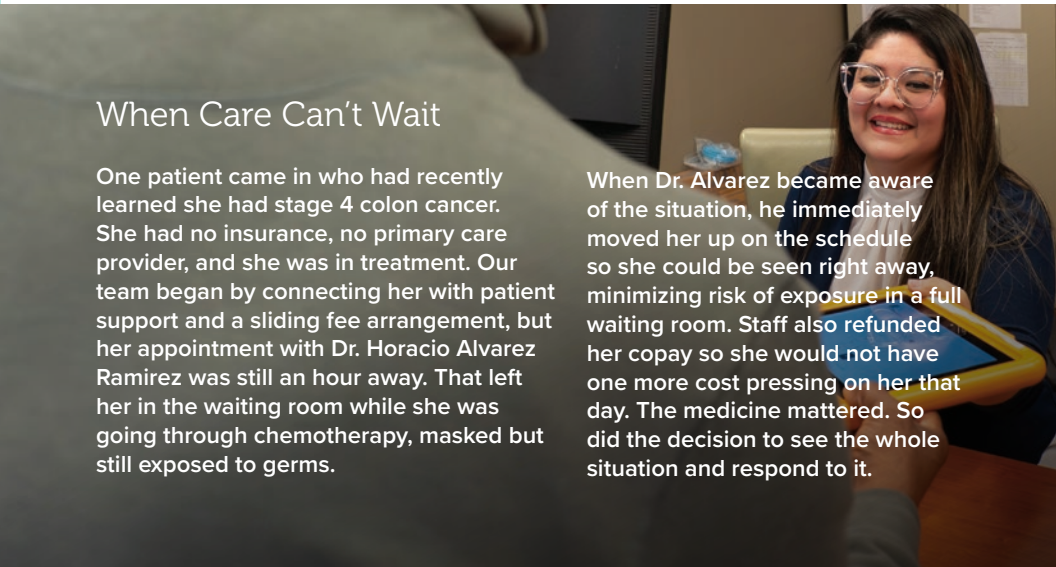
Chronic Disease Management



## When Care Can't Wait

One patient came in who had recently learned she had stage 4 colon cancer. She had no insurance, no primary care provider, and she was in treatment. Our team began by connecting her with patient support and a sliding fee arrangement, but her appointment with Dr. Horacio Alvarez Ramirez was still an hour away. That left her in the waiting room while she was going through chemotherapy, masked but still exposed to germs.

When Dr. Alvarez became aware of the situation, he immediately moved her up on the schedule so she could be seen right away, minimizing risk of exposure in a full waiting room. Staff also refunded her copay so she would not have one more cost pressing on her that day. The medicine mattered. So did the decision to see the whole situation and respond to it.



# 2025 Financials

## Revenues

Net Patient Service Revenues _____	\$13,560,000	49.0%
Grants _____	\$3,120,000	11.3%
Pharmacy 340(B) _____	\$9,400,000	34.0%
Incentives _____	\$640,000	2.3%
Donations _____	\$8,700	0.0%
Interest _____	\$560,000	2.0%
Medicare Cost Report Settlements _____	\$61,500	0.2%
Recovery of Bad Debts _____	\$113,300	0.4%
Other _____	\$210,000	0.8%
Total Revenues _____	\$27,673,500	100.0%

## Expenses

Salaries/Wages/Benefits _____	\$15,488,000	56.0%
Staff Appreciation/Training/Travel/Hiring _____	\$200,000	0.7%
Supplies/Medications/Small Equipment/ Equipment Rentals _____	\$4,267,000	15.4%
Legal/Accounting/Consulting Services _____	\$297,000	1.1%
Business Insurances _____	\$124,000	0.4%
Facilities Rent/Utilities/Maintenance _____	\$1,327,000	4.8%
Contracted Services _____	\$4,100,000	14.8%
Bad Debts and Collection Services _____	\$415,000	1.5%
Depreciation and Amortization _____	\$573,000	2.1%
Promotion and Outreach _____	\$252,000	0.9%
Memberships/Licenses/Fees _____	\$290,000	1.0%
Communications Services _____	\$333,000	1.2%
Total Expenses _____	\$27,666,000	100.0%
Change in Net Assets _____	\$7,500	

# Federally Qualified Health Centers Across the U.S.

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Bluestem Health is one of over 1,500 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) in the United States, serving over 52 million patients—nearly one in seven people. Despite delivering primary care to 14% of the U.S. population, FQHC patients accounted for only 1% of total healthcare spending.

In 2024, health centers served a record-breaking number of patients, of whom were:

- **Over 6 million uninsured patients**
- **Over 20.5 million with low incomes**

Health centers provide vital care for many of America's historically underserved communities, including:

- **Over 10 million children**
- **4.1 million patients over the age of 65**
- **1.5 million people who are unhoused**
- **Over 428,000 veterans**

Providing effective healthcare to the underserved Lincoln population, regardless of insurance status, continues to be what drives our team forward.

## Care Outside the Appointment

Staff members often notice people near the clinics who need a meal, especially in harsh weather. One recent example was a warm meal bought on a cold day outside our Main Clinic. A dental assistant was heading out to lunch and came back with two warm meals, one for her and one for the unhoused person sitting outside the clinic. We know these gestures are small on paper, but we hear all the time how it changes the day for the person receiving it.



# Moments that Mattered a Little More

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## Kids Get Seen

Dr. Michael Israel has a simple standard when children need care: find a way to see them. When a school physical was accidentally double-booked, he overheard what was happening at the desk, stepped in on the spot, and completed the visit so the family did not have to reschedule.



## It's Not Christmas Without a Tree

When a patient was trying to find a Christmas tree for her son, our Main Clinic manager, Natasha, gave the clinic's tree to the family as they were leaving their appointment. Then, she replaced the tree in the clinic to keep the Christmas spirit alive.



This is just one example our team shared about Natasha giving selflessly to our patients and team.

## Make the Drive Worth It

Patients sometimes travel long distances for care, especially dental care.

Rebecca, Dental Clinic Administrator, has built a reputation for making sure those efforts are not wasted. If someone has come that far, she works to get them seen as soon as possible. She also gives her own time outside the clinic, volunteering with the dental team at Clinic with a Heart whenever the need is high.



## A Pattern of Support



Despite working part-time some days, Dr. Erica Peterson still keeps a close watch on her patients, and she personally follows-up with them to make sure they are taken care of. Her commitment to individualized attention and consistent care is what people remember.

# Board of Directors

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**Kevin Bagley**, Chair

**Tyler Strong**, Vice Chair

**Lucy Flores**, Secretary

**Andrew Schill**, Immediate Past Chair

**Nasir Ahmad Farahmand**

**Bob Bleicher**

**Doug Christensen**

**Angela Duncan**

**Yi Du**

**Than Htut Win**

**Kerry Kernen**

**Jack Kramer, PHD**

**Munir Musa**

# Leadership Team

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**Brad Meyer**  
**FACMPE**

Chief Executive Officer



**Shane Ludwig**  
Chief Operations Officer



**Jacque Fanning**  
**CPA, CGMA**  
Chief Financial Officer



**Korey White**  
Human Resources  
Administrator



**Michael Israel, MD**  
Chief Medical Officer



**Rebecca Brodecky**  
Dental Clinic  
Administrator

# Bluestem Health Providers

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**Horacio Alvarez  
Ramirez, MD**  
Family Medicine



**Trey Andrews, PhD**  
Behavioral Health



**Ghazal Barakat  
MSW, PLMHP**  
Behavioral Health



**Jessica Buhman, PA-C**  
Family Medicine



**Bich Chau, MD**  
Family Medicine



**Reba Cooksley, DNP  
APRN-NP, FNP-C**  
Family Medicine



**Anthony Cox, PA-C**  
Family Medicine



**Trishia Frost, APRN-NP**  
Family Medicine



**Sarah Grady, PA-C**  
Family Medicine



**Colin Grandgenett  
PA-C**  
Family Medicine



**John Grandgenett  
APRN-NP**  
Family Medicine



**Arianne Hollman, PA-C**  
Family Medicine



**Michael Israel, MD**  
Chief Medical Officer  
Family Medicine



**Michael Judson, Psy.D**  
Director of  
Behavioral Health



**Lalia Khoudeida  
PLMHP, PCMSW**  
Behavioral Health



**Heather Kleeman, DO**  
Family Medicine



**Charles Kreshel, MD**  
Family Medicine



**Michelle Krumland  
APRN-NP**  
Family Medicine



**Julia Lainhart, PA-C**  
Family Medicine



**Abigail Lamp, Psy.D**  
Behavioral Health



**Caitlin Neukirch, PA-C**  
Family Medicine



**Angela Nguyen, PA-C**  
Family Medicine



**Michele Overhalser**  
**APRN-NP**  
Family Medicine



**Erica Peterson**  
**MD, MPH**  
Pediatrics



**Humaira Qasimyar, MD**  
Pediatrics



**Nishma Ramos-Gonzalez, Psy.D, LIMHP**  
Behavioral Health



**Adam Rasmussen, MD**  
Family Medicine



**Arathi Reddy, DMD**  
Dental Health



**Andrew Shahan, MD**  
Family Medicine



**Shane Sudman, DDS**  
Dental Health



**Maxine Turvey**  
**APRN-FNP**  
Family Medicine



**Brett Wergin, MD**  
Family Medicine

Our Vision  
To create a healthy  
community.



**Building a more vibrant,  
healthy community  
for everyone.**

