

Neighborhood Health Clinic keeps up with growth. What's new?



[Liz Freeman](#)

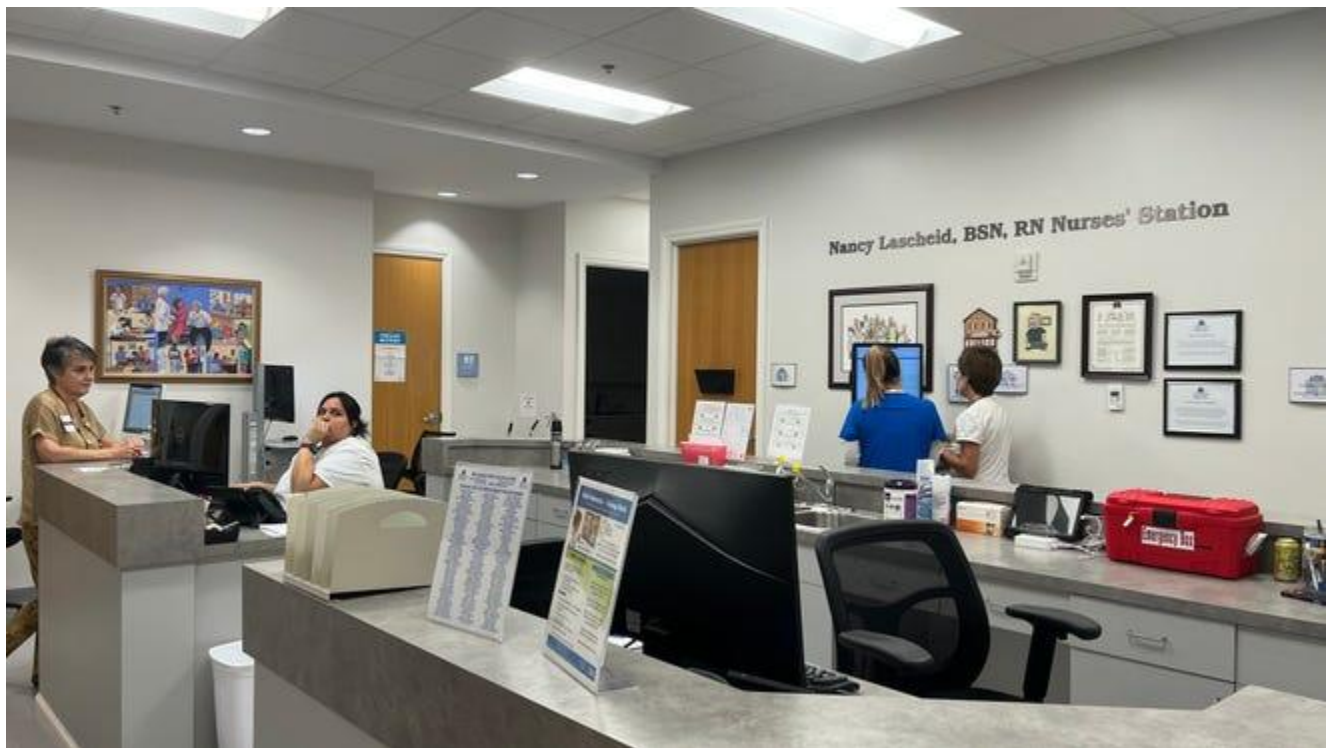
Naples Daily News

[Neighborhood Health Clinic](#) in Naples is busy with a whirlwind of expansions.

Some of the millions in upgrades at the nonprofit clinic have been internal; some external with a \$7.2 million pathology complex under construction and slated for a September move-in date.

All have been possible with donor dollars, where a capital campaign to raise \$12.8 million was completed in 2021. The nonprofit clinic is located at 88 12th St. N. near Central Avenue and Goodlette-Frank Road.

The volunteer medical staff handled more than 12,000 patient visits in 2024 and performed more than 30,000 procedures. To qualify, patients must be low income residents, aged 19 to 64, of Collier with jobs but they lack health insurance.



All told, more than 50,000 residents of Collier meet clinic guidelines for care, a number that continues to climb with population growth, eligibility changes for Medicaid, and loss of private insurance through job changes.

One recently completed project involved a larger “medications room” where patients leave appointments with what medications they need; another was expanding an in-house laboratory.



When the three-story pathology building opens in the fall, the clinic will be more self-reliant and not have to tap charitable partnerships as much, Keith Maples, chief executive officer, said.

“When the pathology building is done, we’re probably going to be able to deliver 98% to 99% of the testing on site,” Maples said. “This has given us long term sustainability, uninterrupted of care (and) reduces the impact on our outside services. So we’re not utilizing the outside specialties as much anymore, we’re not utilizing the hospitals as much anymore. We still have those strong partnerships but we can do more in house.”

Neighborhood Health Clinic in Naples: How it works

The clinic offers care in more than 25 specialty fields on a rotating basis with a volunteer force of 250 physicians, 50 dentists and 100 nurses. Also critical for smooth operations are the more than 300 non-medical volunteers donating their time.

Patients typically donate \$10 a month toward operating costs, something that is important to them to give back for the care they receive, Maples said. A donor matches the patient donation.

Roughly \$25 million in medical care is delivered annually to clinic patients on the campus that today encompasses 43,000 square feet of building space.

The campus includes the original clinic building and the separate Armstrong Medical Building that houses radiology, dental care, women's health services, cardiology, wound care and more.

Another building is the Van Domelen Education and Wellness Building that includes a teaching kitchen and auditorium for events.

Medications' room gets a major upgrade

The clinic's original "medications room" a terminology necessary to use because it is not a pharmacy, functioned in a cramped room for years. Patients don't pay for their medications.

Internal remodeling began in November to expand it to 1,850 square feet and a ribbon cutting held May 1. The cost was \$500,000.

It includes upgraded equipment to significantly enhance ability to serve patients, Marcie Burland, director of development, said.

"Annually we distribute \$6.5 million in retail value of medications through our partnerships with AmeriCares, Direct Relief, Dispensary of Hope, pharmaceutical companies and RX assist," Burland said. "The expanded space allows for a larger inventory of formulary medications, ensuring new prescriptions or changes can be filled immediately, minimizing delays in treatment."

A big benefit is being able to consolidate the volunteer operations into a single dedicated area, and the space improves efficiency and coordination, she said.

"Ultimately, quicker medication access means our patients spend less time away from work and family," she said.

Expanded laboratory abilities at the clinic

The old laboratory was limited to fingerprick tests, yet a nearly \$1 million expansion and equipment upgrade means they can do much more with in-house blood draws.

With the advanced testing, the lab now gets inspected and regulated by the state.

It can perform basic metabolic panels, complete blood count work that can flag abnormalities, thyroid panels and more, Xhorxhi Pengo, a lab administrator, said.

“With all of these advanced machines, they are all blood draw (based) so we’re transitioning more to that, we can get an extensive panel for our patients which is amazing,” Pengo said.

The new three-story pathology building

The 11,800-square-foot pathology building is going up at the corner of Central Avenue and 12th Street N.

A major gift of \$2.5 million was made by William and Candy Raveis. William Raveis founded William Raveis Real Estate in 1974 in Connecticut.

The clinic has partnered with Naples Pathology Associates to oversee the operations, and its pathologists will rotate through the center, Maples said.

The plan is to have laboratory test results the same day when possible so patients can avoid having to take time off from work again to come back for the results and medications, he said.

The plan includes higher-end equipment for more advanced pathology testing, such as molecular pathology, where specimens now are often sent out of the area for results.

Having a partnership with Naples Pathology is similar to the arrangement that the clinic has with Millennium Physician Group to oversee imaging services done at the clinic’s radiology center.

<https://www.naplesnews.com/story/news/2025/05/05/volunteer-medical-staff-delivered-25-million-in-care-in-2024/83329359007/?tbref=hp>