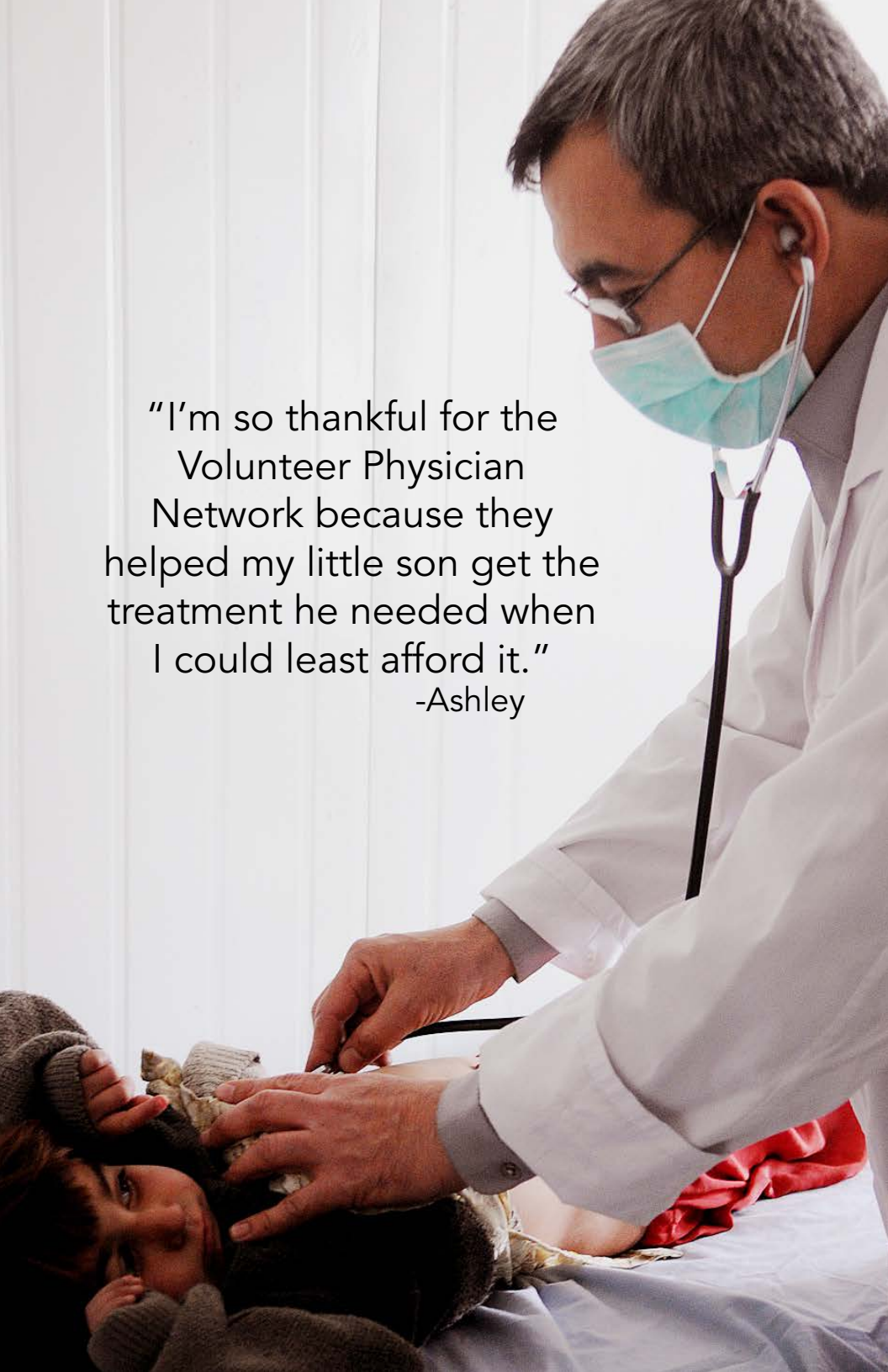




Volunteer Physician Network

Free Specialty Care for Iowans in Need





"I'm so thankful for the Volunteer Physician Network because they helped my little son get the treatment he needed when I could least afford it."
-Ashley

Our Mission

The Polk County Medical Society Volunteer Physician Network (VPN) Specialty Care Program is a commitment by doctors in Central Iowa to provide free access to specialty care for those in need.

The VPN is a vital program that provides free quality specialty care to patients at the lowest level of acuity. VPN patients receive care in the specialist office including interpretive services and coordination of additional specialty care when needed. The patient is educated about health care risks and how to manage their health, which allows them to return to a productive and healthier life with dignity.

"Here in Iowa we regularly see working poor and indigent patients that are referred to us by the Volunteer Physician Network. These patients don't have access to surgical care since they are uninsured and have very limited income. The care is coordinated by the excellent and hardworking staff at the Polk County Medical Society's Volunteer Physician Network. This ensures the patient receives the specialty care they need."

-Praveen Prasad, MD

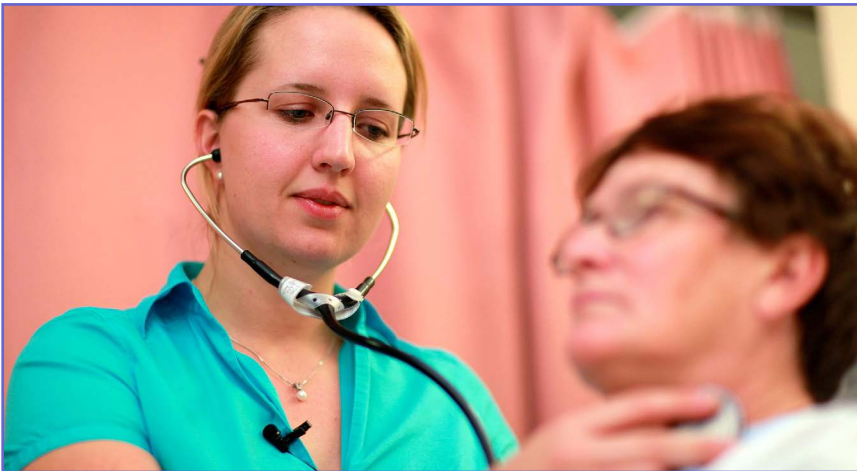
"One of the greatest gifts we have as physicians is to give back to the greater community. The Polk County Medical Society Volunteer Physician Network is a program which provides the opportunity to truly make an impact by compassionately serving those less fortunate."

-Corey Mineck, M.D.

Who We Are

The Polk County Medical Society Volunteer Physician Network was created to provide free access to specialty care for uninsured lowans, through our network of volunteer physicians as well as our partners at Des Moines hospitals and surgery centers.

Our VPN network has 445 specialty physicians who tirelessly donate their time and services. The VPN coordinates physician appointments, inpatient/outpatient hospitalizations, anesthesia, ongoing care and interpretive services at no cost to Iowa patients we serve. Despite healthcare reform, there will always be uninsured lowans who need and deserve access to specialty care. We are committed to serving those who need specialty medical care.



Who We Serve

The VPN is a vital program that provides quality specialty care to people who can least afford it. Patients treated by specialists through the VPN program receive the complete care they need at the specialist office. The patient learns about health care risks and how to manage their health, which allows them to return to a more productive and healthier life with dignity.

The VPN receives referrals from community health centers, safety net and free clinics throughout Iowa. The patients are uninsured, underinsured, undocumented, and are 200% below the federal poverty level, and not eligible for federal or state funded programs.



Join Our Mission

The Polk County Medical Society's VPN serves patients who can't afford health insurance.

They make too much to qualify for government assistance and have nowhere to turn for help.

We are asking you to help us continue this important program for those who need it most. Your contribution helps the VPN to continue to coordinate the specialty care and outreach. The Polk County Medical Society's VPN is a 501C 3 nonprofit organization and all contributions are tax deductible.

"It has been my privilege to have the opportunity to be a part of the Volunteer Physician Network. The VPN strikes to the core of why I entered the field of medicine - to care for the patient with integrity and compassion, irrespective of their ability to pay or station in life. The idealism exemplified by the VPN providers has been inspirational. It is very fulfilling to contribute to the health and expert treatment of patients and their families whose economic circumstances limit access to specialty care. The gratitude these patients display is humbling. I will continue serving lowans in need through the VPN. We encourage all specialists to participate. Your efforts are meaningful and appreciated; your time will be well spent."

Philip J. Colletier, M.D., PCMS President

VPN Matters

There are many lives we have touched. For example, a 69 year old female had severe cataracts that impacted her ability to drive and care for her adult daughter with polio who depended on her for daily care and meals. The woman was undocumented, had no insurance and did not qualify for any community assistance. Through her neighborhood clinic she was referred to Polk County Medical Society's VPN program and received Specialty Ophthalmology care for cataract surgery. She has recovered and now continues to care for her daughter and live a healthy, productive life.

A 46 year old male who was his family's sole provider came to us with a severe hernia that was impacting his job performance. The man did not have insurance and the ongoing hernia pain impacted his ability to work consistently. A free clinic referred him to the Polk County Medical Society's VPN program and he received care from a General Surgery Specialist which solved his problem/hernia and enabled him to return to work and provide for his family.





“Our network of providers work tirelessly to provide the care we believe every individual is entitled to despite their economic situation. The devotion and heart of our physicians, hospitals and surgery centers enables us to help families and individuals overcome health issues. This allows them to return to a healthier life with dignity. ”

Kathie J. Lyman, PCMS Executive Director

Volunteer Physician Network

1520 HIGH STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50309

515-288-6346

VPN2@PCMS.ORG

WWW.VOLUNTEERPHYSICIANS.ORG

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