ProMedica Food Clinic at Bay Park Community Hospital

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In 2018, more than 1,600 patients in the east Toledo/Oregon service area screened positive for food insecurity. In response to this need, ProMedica is opening a new Food Clinic at Bay Park Community Hospital in February 2019.



What is food insecurity?

Food insecurity is defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food insecurity is an issue that affects people across all socio-economic groups, ages, cultures and races.

Why is it important to address food insecurity?

Regular access to nutritious food is a cornerstone of good health. Without it, health risks increase and overall well-being declines. Additionally, people who are food insecure sometimes have to make hard decisions about how they will meet their basic needs, oftentimes neglecting less urgent but still important health needs (refilling medications, visiting the doctor, etc.).

What is the ProMedica Food Clinic?

ProMedica launched its first food clinic in 2015 to address food insecurity as one of the many social determinants of health in our communities. With the addition of the Bay Park location, ProMedica now operates three food clinics throughout Metro Toledo. Since 2015, the food clinic program has served more than 6,600 households in more than 28,000 patient visits.

How does the ProMedica Food Clinic help?

The idea of the food clinic is simple: food is medicine. After being identified (usually in their ProMedica doctor's office) as being at risk for food insecurity, patients are referred to the food clinic where they can shop for 2 – 3 days worth of healthy food for their household each month.

In addition to receiving healthy food that is in line with their medical needs, patients may receive nutrition counseling and education, and connections to resources that can help them with other issues they may be facing (financial coaching, maternity health care, cooking classes, etc.).

"ProMedica Food Clinic has changed my life. I find peace of mind knowing my family will receive wholesome quality foods each month. The staff is a joy to see each month, and truly respect my family. I will never forget how amazing ProMedica is for helping my family." – Kelly B.

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