



2025 Annual Report





OUR MISSION is to provide equitable, culturally centered healthcare and wellness services with a focus on Latinx and farmworker communities.

SERVICE

We believe that providing high-quality, culturally humble, person-centered services achieves positive health outcomes.

ADVOCACY

We work to ensure that our families have a voice in all matters that impact their health and well-being.

EQUITY

We believe that everyone has a right to healthcare.

TRANSPARENCY

We believe that open and honest communication improves all relationships.

COLLABORATION

We achieve more for our community by working with like-minded community partners.

PATIENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Poverty level:

Living at-or-below 250% of the federal poverty level

Health insurance status:

Uninsured or underinsured

Age:

Adults, age 18+



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Marianne Martinez, MPA
CEO

Expanding Care, Strengthening Community



“This year, we expanded access to primary care... strengthened partnerships throughout the region, and cared for more patients than ever before.”

generosity of supporters who believe that everyone deserves access to quality health care. Thank you for being part of Vecinos’ mission and for helping us continue to build healthier, stronger communities together.

Marianne Rupp Martinez

Marianne Rupp Martinez
Chief Executive Officer

I am incredibly proud of what Vecinos accomplished in 2025. In a time when so many of our neighbors continued to face barriers to care, our team showed up every day with compassion, determination, and an unwavering commitment to the communities we serve.

This year, we expanded access to primary care across Western North Carolina, strengthened partnerships throughout the region, and cared for more patients than ever before. Behind every number in this report is a person—a parent managing a chronic illness, a worker receiving preventive care for the first time, a family finding support during a difficult season. These stories are the true measure of our impact.

None of this work happens alone. It is made possible by the dedication of our staff and volunteers, the trust of our patients, and the

The Power of Community-Driven Care

Vecinos exists because this community believes that health care should be accessible, compassionate, and rooted in dignity for every person. In 2025, that shared commitment continued to make a profound difference across Western North Carolina. Together, we expanded access to care, strengthened partnerships, and supported thousands of individuals and families who might otherwise have gone without the services they need to stay healthy.

“Your support does more than fund programs—it helps create healthier families, stronger communities, and greater opportunity for our neighbors.”



This work is only possible because of the collective effort behind it. We are deeply grateful to the staff, volunteers, community partners, and especially the donors whose generosity sustains and strengthens our mission. Your support does more than fund programs—it helps create healthier families, stronger communities, and greater opportunity for our neighbors.

As Vecinos continues to grow, our commitment remains the same: to meet people where they are, provide high-quality care with compassion and respect, and build a healthier future for our region together. Thank you for being part of this important work and for believing in the power of community-driven care.

Theresa Cruz Paul

Theresa Cruz Paul
Incoming President,
2026 Board Of Directors

LEADERSHIP UPDATE



Vecinos is proud to welcome Meredith Jackson-deGraffenried as our first Chief Operating Officer. With experience in global health, nonprofit leadership, and cross-cultural collaboration, Meredith brings a thoughtful, community-centered approach to strengthening the systems that support our mission.

As COO, Meredith will oversee operations, facilities, technology, fleet and mobile clinic maintenance, and the Community Health Hub—helping ensure our infrastructure grows alongside the needs of our patients, staff, and community.

We are grateful to have Meredith on our team and excited for the leadership and stability she will bring to Vecinos' future.

The Community Health Hub



In May 2025, the Vecinos Community Health Hub opened its doors, offering a more coordinated and accessible place for care in Western North Carolina. The Hub brings nonprofit partners and health services together under one roof, creating a more connected experience for patients. With care and support in one place, patients can more easily access what they need without the barriers that often delay care. Since opening, the number of individuals receiving medical services has increased by 63%, reflecting both the Hub's expanded capacity and the growing need in our region. More than a facility, the Hub is a place where care feels consistent, welcoming, and within reach.

FEATURED PARTNERS

Partnerships help Vecinos connect patients to the broader support systems that make health possible.

Pisgah Legal Services

Co-located within the Hub since day one, Pisgah Legal Services helps patients access legal support around housing, employment, immigration, and other issues that directly impact health.

Fresh Access Franklin / International Friendship Center

Through Fresh Access Franklin and the International Friendship Center, patients and families have greater access to healthy, affordable food, along with resources that support connection, belonging, and resilience.

WNC Colorectal Cancer Screening Initiative

As part of this regional partnership, Vecinos helps more patients access preventive care and follow-up services that might otherwise be out of reach. In 2025, colorectal cancer screenings increased by 31%.

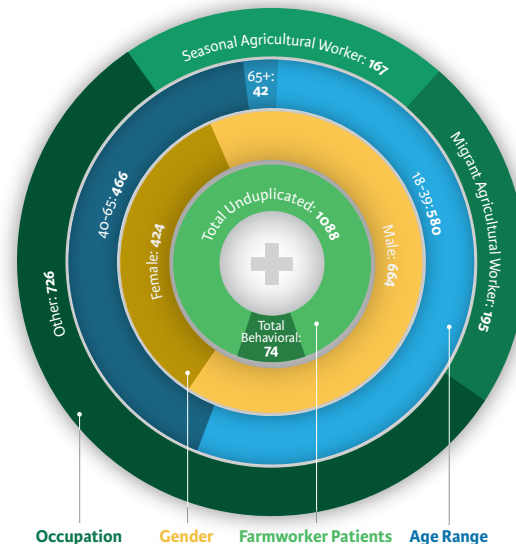
2025 Encounter Overview

Unduplicated Patients: **1,088** • Medical Encounters: **2,472** • Behavioral Health Encounters: **137**
 Transportation/Interpretation Encounters: **464** • Pharmacy Encounters: **780** • Patients Served by Pharmacy: **440**
 Prescription Medications Dispensed: **2,032** • Lab Encounters: **2,238** • Patients Served by Lab: **1,041**
 Diagnostic Labs Performed: **9,322**

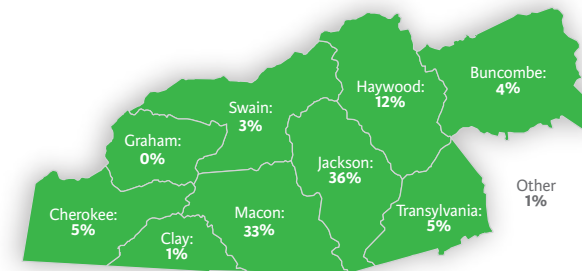
TOP DIAGNOSES

- Hypertension
- Prediabetes
- Hyperlipidemia
- Vitamin D Deficiency
- BMI >= 30

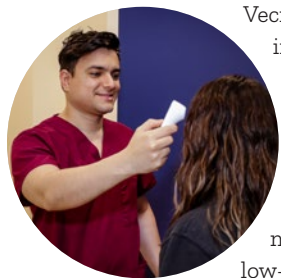
PATIENT DEMOGRAPHICS



PERCENTAGES SERVED BY COUNTY



Clinic



Vecinos provides integrated primary and behavioral health care through outpatient, telehealth, and mobile clinics serving

low-income, uninsured, underinsured, and farmworker communities across Western North Carolina. In 2025, the opening of the Community Health Hub in Franklin and the addition of a full-time provider expanded in-clinic hours from 8 to 37 hours per week, increasing access to consistent,

In 2025, Vecinos served as a primary care home for more than 1,100 adults across nine counties and continues to accept new patients today!

coordinated care. The clinic team strengthened support for chronic disease management, mental health, and culturally responsive health education, leading to improved outcomes for patients, particularly those managing diabetes. Expanded telehealth and mobile clinic services also helped reduce transportation and access barriers for rural patients and migrant farmworkers, ensuring care remained accessible across the region.



Behavioral Health

Throughout 2025, Vecinos' Behavioral Health Team provided steady, whole-person support while helping patients navigate stress, isolation, trauma, and the ongoing challenges affecting many families across Western North Carolina. The Behavioral Health Team also played an important role in Hurricane Helene recovery efforts, helping coordinate resources and connect community members with support.

This work is rooted in trust—meeting patients with steady, approachable care at their own pace.

Integrated within Vecinos' primary care model, the team identifies mental health needs early and provides education, care coordination, referrals,



and ongoing support through trusted, culturally responsive relationships. Patients are able to access care at their own pace in ways that feel safe and approachable.

Beginning in 2026, qualifying individuals will also be able to access behavioral health services without enrolling as medical patients, expanding community access to care.

Outreach and Special Programs

Outreach remains central to Vecinos' work, connecting individuals and families across Western North Carolina to care, resources, and support, with agricultural workers and their families remaining a core focus of this effort. Through field outreach, home visits, patient navigation, and trusted community relationships, the team helps people access medical care, behavioral health services, food, transportation, and other essential resources.



Improving health outcomes requires addressing both clinical care and the broader factors that impact wellbeing

In 2025, the Outreach team facilitated more than 3,600 direct assistance encounters and provided over 1,600 health education encounters through workshops, field outreach, and programs like the Hydration Route. Outreach staff also

expanded access through telehealth activation and ongoing accompaniment, helping patients navigate complex systems and reduce barriers to care.

By meeting people where they are, Vecinos continues to strengthen trust, improve access, and support healthier, more resilient communities.



Farm Crews We Serve

Cherokee County

Andrews | Dutt & Wagner, Adams Farm, and Carolina Mountain
Murphy | Rivers Edge Farm

Clay County

Hayesville | SMM Farm

Macon County

Highlands | Deal
Franklin | Norton Creek, JW Mitchell, and C.R. Brown
Scaly Mountain | Osage

Swain County

Bryson City | Darnell Farm

Jackson County

Little Canada | Wolf Creek
Whittier | Shelton

Haywood County

Canton | JW Johnson Tomato, Ronnie James, Estrada Farm, Phillips Rock, and John Leatherwood
Jonathan Creek | Boyd Mountain
Waynesville | Barber's Orchard and Rainbow Nursery

Buncombe County

Leicester | Costa Farms

Transylvania County

Brevard | Gaia Herbs and Clems Organic Farm

ONGOING HURRICANE HELENE RESPONSE

Hurricane Helene revealed how quickly access to care, communication, and basic resources can disappear during a crisis. In response, Vecinos mobilized immediately, reaching more than 700 patients within the first two days and delivering food, water, financial assistance, medical care, and emotional support directly to affected communities.

As recovery continued throughout 2025, Vecinos expanded support beyond immediate relief by continuing medical and behavioral health services, connecting patients to recovery resources, and helping secure more than \$1.4 million in funding to strengthen long-term resilience across Western North Carolina. In partnership with local nonprofits and community organizations, these investments are supporting preparedness planning, recovery coordination, and stronger systems of care for future emergencies.

This work continues to shape Vecinos' commitment to community resilience and regional preparedness.

Volunteer Highlights

Volunteers are at the heart of Vecinos. Their generosity, compassion, and willingness to show up for our patients make this work possible, and we are deeply grateful for the time, care, and commitment they bring to our community. Read about three of our volunteers whose dedication reflects the spirit of service that strengthens Vecinos every day.



Dr. Philip Neiheisel, MD
Volunteer since: 2021

AREAS OF SERVICE:
Volunteer provider, mobile clinics, outpatient clinics.

"I love volunteering at Vecinos because I get the opportunity to help keep my neighbors healthy. It's the kind of doctor's office we all wish we could go to."



Robert "Bob" Steck, CRNA
Volunteer since: 2022

AREAS OF SERVICE:
Registered nurse, phlebotomy, clinic support

"At Vecinos, I recognize that I do make a difference. I encourage anyone who is interested in supporting our farmworkers, those who produce our food, to volunteer with Vecinos. It doesn't take a lot to make a big difference."



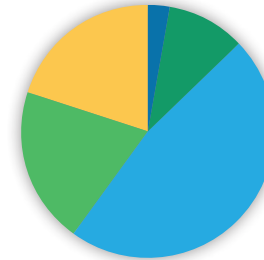
Ellen Owens, MA
Volunteer since: 2022

AREAS OF SERVICE:
Interpretation

"Volunteering at Vecinos has been such a rewarding experience by being part of a well-run, deeply caring team providing health care and improving the wellbeing of our community. It has been a deep joy to connect to clients by providing interpretation for their health care needs."

Value of Impact

In 2025, community support helped Vecinos respond to Hurricane Helene, sustain long-term recovery efforts, and continue providing high-quality care across Western North Carolina. Funding also supported the \$7.7 million Community Health Hub, contributed to a 63% increase in medical services, and strengthened ongoing, community-centered care and resilience.



2025 CAPITAL AND OPERATIONAL INCOME

| Source of Support | Total |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Donations and Contributions | 3% |
| Churches and Civic Groups | 10% |
| State Grants | 20% |
| Federal Grants | 20% |
| Foundation Grants | 47% |
| Total | \$6,590,409 |



Total value of services to patients: **\$2,666,830**
 Value of Rx medications dispensed **\$746,579**
 Estimated hospital emergency department diversion savings: **\$6,140,672**



Total number of volunteers: **6**
 Total value of donated goods and space: **\$197,611**
 Pharmacist volunteer hours: **177**
 Physician volunteer hours: **216**
 Registered Nurse volunteer hours: **180**
 Interpreter volunteer hours: **280**
 Total value of all volunteer hours: **\$46,688**

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF DONORS

Vecinos relies on the generosity and support of our community. Because of you, we are able to provide high-quality, culturally centered care to patients across Western North Carolina—care that is consistent, accessible, and rooted in trust.

Your support not only sustains this work, but expands what is possible for the individuals and families we serve across our region.

Make a gift today to help ensure this care continues.



Donors

We are deeply grateful to the individuals, foundations, corporate partners, and anonymous donors whose generosity strengthened Vecinos' work this year. Whether named or anonymous, each gift helped expand access to care, sustain essential programs, and move our work forward with lasting impact.

Foundations and Corporate Donors

\$10,000+ Donors

Appalachian Regional Commission***
 Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation**
 Cashiers Community Fund
 Cedar Creek Club
 Center for Disaster Philanthropy*
 Center for Environmental Farming
 Church of the Good Shepherd
 Community Foundation of WNC - Human Services and Education grant
 Direct Relief
 Dogwood Health Trust**
 Farmworker Health Program
 Footprint Project***
 Foundations for the Carolinas*
 Global Giving*
 Great Smokies Health Foundation
 Highlands-Cashiers Health Foundation**
 Jackson County Community Foundation
 Leon Levine**

Macon County Community Foundation**

Medication Assistance Program
 Nantahala Health Foundation*
 National Center for Farmworker Health
NC Department of Health and Human Services
 Department of Mental Health*
 Office of Rural Health
 NC Office of Health Information Technology
 Community Health Grants
 State Designated Rural Health Center grant
 Sisters of Mercy Foundation
 US Department of Agriculture***
 Vaya Health

* Grant or donation to support Helene recovery or resilience work

** Gave both a regular cycle grant or donation, plus Grant or donation to support Helene recovery work

*** Capital grant or donation

Individual Donors

Heartfelt thanks to Linda Bengé for her transformative support this year.

\$10,000+ Donors

BHK Donor Advised Fund
 Michael Fournel
 Kim Havas
 Robin Stickney

\$5,000+ Donors

First Presbyterian Church of Highlands
 Alston Gardener
 North Carolina Community Health Center Association

\$1,000+ Donors

Brighton Foundation Trust
 Mary Anne Farrell
 Gaia Herbs
 Jennifer Henderson
 Farmworker Justice
 Mark and Una Newman Family Foundation
 Steven and Patrice Steinbrueck
 Lauren Steiner
 Drs. Michael and Dominique Toedt
 David and Ann Trigg

\$500+ Donors

Lisa Bacon
 Joseph and Lenore Baum
 Debra Burke
 Adam Carriker
 Community Care Clinic of Highlands-Cashiers
 Theresa Cruz Paul
 Jamie Ellingwood
 Greg Garcia
 Alyson and Dennis Ginsburg
 Russell and Whitney Hope Hawkins
 Colleen Hayes
 Lynn Hert
 Elizabeth Lofquist
 Catherine McManus and Nicholas Dowmon
 Ken Miller
 Jerry Moore
 Michael and Jessica Pior
 Kate Renner
 Anne Marie and Michael Smith
 Deborah Smith
 Ericka Zimmerman

Alyson and Dennis Ginsburg
 Russell and Whitney Hope Hawkins
 Colleen Hayes
 Lynn Hert
 Elizabeth Lofquist
 Catherine McManus and Nicholas Dowmon
 Ken Miller
 Jerry Moore
 Michael and Jessica Pior
 Kate Renner
 Anne Marie and Michael Smith
 Deborah Smith
 Ericka Zimmerman

\$100+ Donors

Lauren Akin
 Shawna Arnold
 Ronald and Catherine Arps
 Heather Baker
 Nina Barczynski
 Virginia Bauman
 Richard and Debra Bennett
 Melissa Birkhofer
 Heidi Blanck
 Brame-Mattox Family Foundation
 Bill Branyon
 Sarah Brown
 Sharon Buck Attack
 Catherine Campbell
 Catherine Carter
 Emily Cataneo
 William Cavallaro
 Debby Chen
 Jeff Cloninger
 Milton Conner
 Mitchell Crisp
 Jennifer Dirkes
 Lindsay and Bill Dorris
 Katherine Douglass
 Terrica Durbin
 Sandra Ellingwood
 Tom Elman
 El Patron Mexican Restaurant
 Rongrong Fan
 Clarissa Garcia Ashe
 Greg and Jennifer Ghodsi Family Foundation
 Diego Gonzalez
 Ann Green
 Jacqueline Greenwald
 Stacy Guffey
 Michael Hanks
 Kristin Harkey
 Jimmy and Carol Hatcher
 William Haynes
 Chelsey Hett
 Emilie Hite
 Devreaux Hunter
 David Hyde
 Angela Kemper
 Alison Kinnear
 Teresa Kirkwood
 Roger Klingler
 Robert and Rebecca Kornegay
 Catherine Lamb
 Alicia Leal

Individual Donors (CONTINUED)

Rich Lee
 Rebecca Lynch
 Charlie Lytle
 Nancy Margolin
 Kari Mauck
 Randy Miller
 Marsha Mills
 Cathy Murtha
 Jenesis Nicolaisen
 Sean O'Connell
 Jeff Palmer
 Katarin Peebles
 Karen Ramshaw
 George Rector and Joan Byrd
 Esther Reynolds
 Brad Rouse
 Carroll Sanchez
 Linda Shubert
 Stacie Smith
 Suzanne Spell
 St. David's Episcopal Church
 Jayne Stasser
 Robyn Stout
 Taco Boy
 Virginia Tegel
 Jerri Thomas
 Estela Torres
 Trinity Episcopal Church
 Teresa Van Duyn
 Pam Wavrin
 Virginia Waymouth
 Dennis and Jan Wencel
 Hollis Whitehead
 Verena Wieloch
 Lauren Yothers

The Vecinos Circle: Monthly Giving



Monthly giving provides the steady, reliable support that helps Vecinos plan ahead, follow up with patients, and keep care consistent—without interruption. We are deeply grateful to the members of The Vecinos Circle whose ongoing generosity helps ensure individuals and families can access the care they need, when they need it.

Join The Vecinos Circle and help keep care steady, accessible, and here for our community every day.

Lisa Bacon
 Heather Baker
 Heidi Blanck
 Catherine Carter
 Katherine Douglass
 Terrica Durbin
 Jamie Ellingwood
 Colleen Hayes
 William Haynes
 Kim Havas
 Lynn Hert
 Randy Miller
 Jerry Moore
 Theresa Cruz Paul
 Kate Renner
 Jayne Stasser
 Estela Torres
 Jerri Thomas
 David and Ann Trigg
 Pam Wavrin
 Matthew Wilson
 Sharyl Wooton

Care that Continues.
Community that Thrives.



Donate Today.

Your support helps ensure that care remains accessible, consistent, and rooted in trust across Western North Carolina—today and for the future. Support this work. Give today.



Scan the QR code with your phone.



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