

Serving the Underserved – Palmer Provides Chiropractic Care in Our Community

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For many of us, options for health care seem nearly limitless. The Quad Cities has a wealth of health care providers with significant expertise. For chiropractic care there are an abundance of choices since there are hundreds of chiropractors practicing in the greater Quad City area. While many of us can be selective in our choices, others are not as fortunate.

There are those in our community who have limited resources, and many who can't afford health insurance. So many people are struggling in these tough economic times to keep their heads above water. Add to that the fact that the cost of all health care is increasing annually and for many, the out-of-pocket cost for care is prohibitive.

This is no small issue. According to the 2011 Current Population Survey report, conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were more than 46 million Americans in poverty with an overall rate of 15 percent. Even more concerning is the fact that the poverty rate among children under the age of 18 was nearly 22 percent. In the overall population approximately 50 million people were uninsured.

Some individuals are choosing to simply ignore their symptoms and complaints. These symptoms and complaints prevent people from doing activities they enjoy and may also have negative health consequences if ignored. In 1989, Palmer College of Chiropractic initiated outreach programs to provide chiropractic services to those who needed care but couldn't afford it. As in all community efforts, addressing societal problems as groups rather than as individuals is far more effective.

One highly effective partnership in the Quad Cities has been between Palmer College and The Salvation Army. Through this partnership, in 1993 Palmer's Community Outreach Program found a permanent site in The Salvation Army building at 307 W. 6th Street in Davenport. This facility provides chiropractic care to qualified elderly, homeless, handicapped and other financially challenged patients. Here chiropractic services including physical examination, orthopedic and neurological testing, and X-rays (if warranted) are performed by senior student interns overseen by highly experienced, licensed doctors of chiropractic. The aim is to provide excellent care in a relaxed atmosphere.

The success of the partnership between Palmer College and The Salvation Army led to the establishment of two additional community outreach clinics. Care is provided at the Davenport Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center (DARC) on Brady Street one day each week. Chiropractic care is seen as a valuable alternative to managing pain with medication. A clinic has also been established in the Salvation Army facility in Moline at 2200 5th Ave. Care is provided there four days a week to nearly 1,000 patients per year.

The Palmer Community Outreach Clinic on 6th St. in Davenport is open five days a week, caring for approximately 33 patients per day and nearly 8,000 patients per year. Care is provided to a diverse population. The clinicians are experienced in caring for children of all ages. The clinic provides care for pregnant women as well. A large variety of neuromusculoskeletal disorders are addressed, including: neck, upper back and low back pain; shoulder, arm, elbow, wrist, hip, knee and foot pain; various types of sports injuries; headaches, including migraines; and TMJ issues. Non-musculoskeletal problems are monitored and appropriate referrals are made. There are many individuals who are unaware of the wide array of resources available in the Quad Cities, and often patients are directed to those resources.

Qualifications for acceptance to Palmer Clinic's Community Outreach Program are based on household size and total household income. The documentation required at the time of the first visit includes: Four current, consecutive pay stubs OR the patient's most current W2 form.

Although the greatest assets of these clinics are the expertise and compassion of the faculty doctors overseeing care, along with the caring senior student interns, resources available at the Davenport Clinic (Palmer's outpatient clinic on campus) are often accessed, particularly for imaging. Since Palmer's Community Outreach Clinics don't provide care for personal injuries or workers' compensation injuries, these cases are referred to our outpatient clinics.

Most of the patients at Palmer College's Community Outreach Clinics would otherwise not be able to receive chiropractic health care. Albert Schweitzer said "There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed." Palmer takes pride in being able to provide necessary chiropractic services to members of our community who are often overlooked.

The hours for the two Community Outreach Clinics have recently been expanded. Locations and hours are as follows:

Davenport Community Outreach Clinic

307 W. 6th St., Davenport, IA 52801
Ph. (563) 326-1870
clinics.qc@palmer.edu

Hours:

Monday: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Tuesday: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.; 3-7 p.m.
Wednesday: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.; 2-7 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Moline Community Outreach Clinic

2200 5th Ave., Moline, IL 61265
Ph. (309) 764-4901
clinics.qc@palmer.edu

Hours:

Monday: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Tuesday: 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.