

Health grants awarded

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The Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County has announced the 2013 awards from the Precision Health Network Fund.

Of the 22 organizations from Brown, Daviess, Greene, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Morgan, Orange and Owen counties seeking support for projects, six were given funding totalling \$30,108 and touching the lives of 3,000 citizens in five counties.

One of the six is Volunteers in Medicine, a free health care clinic in Bloomington for uninsured adults in Monroe and Owen counties, served 2,847 patients in 2012. VIM estimates that more than 90 percent of its patients come to VIM seeking assistance for pain or medical issues caused by untreated dental problems, and recent studies and reviews have shown a statistical association between periodontal disease and pre-eclampsia, cardiovascular disease, stroke, pulmonary disease, osteoporosis, Alzheimer's disease and diabetes.

VIM will pilot a program to provide dentures to patients after significant tooth loss or extractions. If it helps improve both the overall health and employability of patients, VIM plans to pursue options for sustaining the program in the future.

The other five Precision Health Network grants funded this year are:

Area 10 Agency on Aging for equipment and training programs to support senior citizens living with balance issues.

Johnson Nichols Health Clinic for chronic disease prevention and treatment through a program to identify and treat chronic and acute health issues for uninsured persons living in poverty in Owen County.

Monroe County United Ministries for the healthy living initiative, a program to address the physical, cognitive, and nutritional needs of low-income preschoolers enrolled in MCUMs affordable childcare program.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard for its community garden education program that helps low-income populations increase self-sufficiency and learn about the healthy benefits of gardening.

Vincennes University Foundation doing business as Generations, Area 13 Agency on Aging for Care Transition, a program to provide patients in Daviess, Greene and Martin counties with the tools and support needed to transition from the hospital to home.