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Our Family Caring For Your Family · Nuestra Familia Cuidando A Tu Familia · Nasa Familija Se Brine Za Vašu Familiju

# NEWS RELEASE

## **Contact us for an interview!**

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## *FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

Waterloo, Iowa  
Wednesday, May 15, 2019

### **Peoples Clinic Plants Garden to Feed Patients**

Peoples Community Health Clinic (Peoples Clinic) is launching the “Peoples Garden” together with the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Center for Energy & Environmental Education and AmeriCorps. Their goal is to fight food insecurity and improve access to fresh vegetables by providing free produce to Peoples Clinic patients.

Food insecurity in Black Hawk County remains high, with an estimated 18,960 food insecure individuals in 2016. Combining this knowledge with needs seen within the clinic, Peoples Clinic Chief Executive Officer, Christine Kemp, wanted to do more to support patients outside of traditional health care offerings.

“In 2018, we participated in the Veggie Voucher program with the help of UNI. The program was a complete success, with our giving out \$6,000 worth of vouchers for use at local Farmers Markets,” said Christine. “This really opened my eyes to the limited access our patients have to fresh fruits and vegetables locally. UNI recognized the same thing as they kept tally of the Veggie Vouchers being used by our patients and were totally on board with us creating our own garden to further support our patients.”

The clinic hopes increased access to fresh produce will lead to healthy eating among their patients. To make sure patients were engaged in the garden process, Peoples Clinic asked for feedback from both patients and community members.

“It was important to us that clinic patients, especially, had a say in the produce that is grown,” said Kamyar Enshayan, Director of the UNI Center for Energy & Environmental Education. “We



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got a wonderful response to the surveys we made available, which gave us a clear direction regarding what seeds and plants we should order for planting.”

The clinic broke ground on the garden in April preparing for planting in May. “Peoples Garden” will begin to produce vegetables in June. Once this happens, patients of Peoples Clinic will be able to select what they need for their families, completely free of cost, no questions asked.

“We realize that there are so many factors in keeping people healthy. The traditional cycle of diagnosis and treatment can only get a person so far,” said Christine. “Fresh food can act as medicine. It plays a huge role in complementing the recommendations we make to our patients. We not only care about our patients when they are at the clinic, we care about what’s happening at home and want to make sure they’re able to be as healthy as possible.”

The clinic hopes this offering helps fill in gaps that continue to exist, even with many helpful food services available within the local community.

“It takes all of us to develop a culture of good food and health, and we want to be part of it,” said Kamyar.

For more about the “Peoples Garden,” visit [www.peoples-clinic.com/our-garden](http://www.peoples-clinic.com/our-garden).

**###END###**

*Peoples Community Health Clinic, Inc. is a nonprofit health care clinic known for providing high quality, comprehensive care to all people in the Cedar Valley, no matter their financial situation. Both uninsured and insured patients are welcome. Guided by its mission statement, Peoples Clinic is dedicated to providing access to affordable, compassionate, high quality health care to all at both its main clinic in the heart of downtown Waterloo and satellite clinic in Clarksville. Primary care, dental services, behavioral health counseling and urgent care are just a few of the Clinic’s many offerings in addition to on-site laboratory, x-ray and pharmacy. Learn more at [www.peoples-clinic.com](http://www.peoples-clinic.com).*