

## Dental Clinic

In 2007, HealthNet of Rock County opened its dental clinic for uninsured individuals with volunteer dentists leading the charge. In 2016, HealthNet of Rock County opened its eligibility for individuals on Medicaid/BadgerCare, veterans without dental care, and individuals on Medicare Part A only.



### Why it matters in Rock County?

- Wisconsin has the lowest rate of oral healthcare for children on Medicaid in the United States.
- Only 25 percent of Rock County's 49,500 uninsured or underinsured residents have regular access to a dentist.
- In the Rock County Health Needs Assessment, oral health was ranked as one of the top three health priorities to address in the county.
- A survey of employers from the American Dental Association found that 40 percent of employers factored smiles or teeth in their hiring decisions.

In 2016, HealthNet of Rock County hired its first full-time staff to ensure that our dental clinic would operate 8 hours a day and 5 days per week. This included a dentist, a dental hygienist, a receptionist, and its first dental clinic manager. Since we have expanded this clinic, HealthNet of Rock County has provided services to tens of thousands of patients in need.

However, HealthNet of Rock County currently experiences challenges meeting the community's need. HealthNet of Rock County only has two operatories, which means that patient care options and productivity are limited. In this new setting, HealthNet of Rock County will have six operatories that will have three dentists or two dentists and a hygienist to work simultaneously. Furthermore, with six operatories, HealthNet of Rock County will be able to serve as a clinical host site to Marquette Dental School. This will hopefully attract new, young dentists to live in Janesville and help HealthNet of Rock County with recruitment.

Additionally, our current clinic does not have room to house additional equipment. At 113, S. Franklin Street, HealthNet of Rock County will have a panoramic x-ray device, which better meets the standards of care for patients and allows our dentists to find cavities or decay in hard to reach places.