

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Thousands Receive Free Dental, Vision and Medical Services at 10th Annual Seattle/King County Clinic

April 28, 2025 (SEATTLE) – Seattle/King County Clinic returned for its 10th anniversary April 24–27 at Seattle Center, once again demonstrating the power of compassion and collaboration in the face of growing healthcare gaps. Over four days, more than 3,300 people received free dental, vision, medical and social services, thanks to the dedication of over 4,000 clinical and non-clinical volunteers representing a wide range of backgrounds.

Funded by grants and donations, the Clinic is a collaborative effort among civic agencies, healthcare organizations, nonprofits, and businesses, serving as a lifeline for uninsured and underinsured individuals. Clinic offerings included dental fillings and extractions, eye exams, prescription eyeglasses, primary care, behavioral health, immunizations, laboratory tests, mammograms, ultrasounds, X-rays, social work, and more.

In addition to healthcare services, the Clinic thoughtfully addressed the broader needs of patients. Patients used more than 40 languages at the Clinic this year. To ensure language was never a barrier to care, interpreters were available on-site and virtually. Therapy dogs were also present to help ease anxiety among patients navigating a busy clinical environment.

"Every year, countless individuals continue to live with pain or untreated health conditions simply because they can't access or afford care — and the need appears to be growing," said Julia Colson, Project Executive for the Clinic. "The Clinic offers a moment of relief and hope, made possible by thousands of volunteers who generously give their time and compassion to help those in need."

Preliminary data offers insight into who sought care at the Clinic and why. Fifty-two percent of patients reported being uninsured, and 33% were unemployed. Contrary to some community assumptions, only 5% of patients were unhoused—a figure that has remained consistent since the Clinic's inception. Highlighting one of the many barriers within the healthcare system, 46% of patients said they had waited seven months or more to receive care for a health concern.

Rick Arnold, MD, Medical Director of the Clinic, reflected, "The number of patients that are served at the Clinic each year is remarkable, and an indicator that more must be done to remove health care barriers." Arnold added, "I have been volunteering at the Clinic for many years and continue to come back because of the joy I see on patient faces after receiving care, many for the first time in years. That gratitude reminds me – and all volunteers at the Clinic - why we do this work."

Since 2014, Seattle/King County Clinic has saved 33,000 patients almost \$30 million in out-of-pocket healthcare costs. This year's event marked an important milestone, reaffirming the community's unwavering commitment to health equity and service.

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## **About Seattle/King County Clinic**

<u>Seattle/King County Clinic</u>, a project led by Seattle Center and Seattle Center Foundation, is the largest community-driven health clinic of its kind in the United States. The four-day grant and donation funded clinic unites healthcare organizations, civic agencies, nonprofits, businesses, and thousands of volunteers to deliver free dental, vision, medical, and social services to individuals who face barriers accessing and affording essential health services.

## **About Clinic Partners**

Several organizations collaborate to produce Seattle/King County Clinic and contribute needed resources and expertise, including:

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For more information, see Seattle/King County Clinic Partners.