

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the tremendous amount of support and encouragement you provided to the Open Door Clinic last year. So many different facets of our community rallied behind us during an unprecedented year of threats to our patient population and to our sources of funding. Your response and help was gratifying, affirming, and encouraging against the backdrop of chaos, hate speech, intolerance, and polarizing Presidential leadership. Your support overwhelmed us and underscored for me how special and lucky we are to be living in this committed and deeply caring community.

We witnessed new friends coming forward to help, interest and coordinated efforts in teaching English to Spanish speakers; and your financial support created new-found stability in the wake of losing navigation dollars and in anticipation of losing a significant federal grant that has allowed us to create access to care and provide outreach to our migrant community for the past nine years. You helped us embrace the unpredictable and move forward with resolve.

We are often heard saying that we simply couldn't do this work without our donors and volunteers—and I hope you know how sincere and true our sentiment is. Last year, 134 volunteers provided care to patients and supported the ODC in a variety of ways in and out of the office. We provided 1,365 medical visits to 802 distinct patients, including 372 new patients. This represents a 19% increase in medical visits from 2016. Additionally, we held 31 dental clinics, 6 dental screenings on local farms, and our hygienist and volunteer dentists treated 103 patients over 571 procedures!

We have an all-time high number of healthcare providers volunteering with us and continue to benefit from a dynamic and diverse group of talented individuals. I feel incredibly fortunate to work with such a committed staff and board who diligently work and problem-solve with the best interests of our patients in mind. I value our interconnectedness and believe that this community is vibrant and strong because of you and our ability to support one another and work together.

With warmth and gratitude,



Heidi Sulis, MPH
Executive Director



Photos by Mary Rizos


Heidi Sulis, ODC's Executive Director

ODC in 2017



134 volunteers
2,600 hours volunteered
802 distinct patients
264 migrant patients
1,365 medical visits
308 flu shots

Stay connected to ODC

 802-388-0137

 www.opendoormidd.org

 odc@opendoormidd.org

 [opendoorclinicvt](https://www.facebook.com/opendoorclinicvt)

 [Open Door Clinic](https://www.youtube.com/OpenDoorClinic)

Meet Our Team

The Open Door Clinic is run by a passionate and committed part-time team based in Middlebury, Vermont. Our office is located in one of the tan trailers on the Porter Hospital campus. Come say hello!

Jody Brakeley, RN (Registered Nurse)

If you come to the Open Door Clinic on a Tuesday evening, you will certainly meet Jody Brakeley, ODC's Clinic Manager and Nurse Case Manager. Jody started working here in May, 2013. "I first heard of the ODC at my previous job. Two of the providers I was working with volunteered here — and still do! — and talked about the need in the community. It sounded like a great organization!" Her patients' hugs and thank yous, plus "the best coworkers" are what keep her coming back each day. When she is not providing health care at the ODC, Jody sings with Maiden Vermont, a women's barbershop chorus: "Probably our most exciting performance was singing the American and Canadian national anthems at a Boston Red Sox game several years ago." On Jody's to-do list for 2018: to go back to Block Island for vacation with her family, which is something they often did when her kids were little, for some well deserved "sand and sun— heaven!"



Heidi Considine, RDH (Registered Dental Hygienist)

Heidi Considine is ODC's Dental Hygienist and Dental Case Manager. Heidi has always been fascinated with the medical field and has a deep appreciation for the human body and how complicated it can be. She joined the ODC team in January 2016. With a Bachelor of Science from the University of Vermont and a degree in Dental Hygiene from Vermont Technical College, she has been working as a dental hygienist since 2009. Heidi loves to be on the water, to ski with Vermont Adaptive, to love on her puppy Zeus and to play and laugh as much as possible. She recently started Kolina Orchard, a retreat for young adults with cancer, and is also the coalition coordinator for VTAAC, Vermont's Taking Action Against Cancer. Her personal challenge for 2018 is to learn how to kiteboard! "Our patients are the most appreciative people to work with and they are the reason I love it here at the Open Door Clinic," she shares.



Melanie Clark

Meet Melanie Clark, ODC's longest standing employee! Melanie joined the Open Door Clinic in June 2003 and has gone through the transition of four Executive Directors! Prior to being ODC's Vermont Health Connect Navigator, she worked as a Vermont Youth Development Corp AmeriCorps member and then as the Tobacco Prevention Coordinator for Addison County. "Each day I come to work, I leave knowing that I made someone's life better. Not many people are lucky enough to be able to do this every day," she says. Melanie does a lot of volunteering and likes to spend time with her family hiking, biking, playing basketball and exploring new places and hobbies. "I have a twin sister, so if you see me and I don't say "hi," it's probably her!"



Julia Doucet, RN (Registered Nurse)



Julia Doucet is ODC's Outreach Nurse and Nurse Case Manager. The intersection of language, culture and medicine is of particular interest for her, that's why she believes she landed her dream job right out of nursing school in June 2011. "I really like the freedom I have to grapple with tough problems and try to find innovative solutions. And that my colleagues put up with my dogs," she shares. When Julia is not at the ODC, she splits her time between multiple other jobs: "When I am not in the office, I work as a taxi driver, chef, house cleaner, zoo keeper, therapist, referee, and dog walker." Julia enjoys being active outside, whether it is hiking, biking or paddling, or lying in the hammock with a good book. She dislikes cooked green peppers and while she tries to eat well, she has a soft spot for anything fruity and gummy. For 2018, Julia is planning to participate in an ultra-marathon! "I got suckered into a 50-mile "challenge" by my coworker, does that count?" [as something exciting planned for 2018].

Josh Lanney

Are you a garlic bread lover? If so, you and ODC's Patient Services Coordinator have a lot to talk about! Josh Lanney joined the Open Door Clinic team in May 2016 and guarantees he can make some pretty great garlic bread out of just about anything. "Hamburger buns? Garlic bread. Bagels? Garlic bread. Banana bread? Not anymore, now it's garlic bread," he assures.

Josh started Juntos student groups at Saint Michael's College and UVM while he was attending Saint Mike's. Juntos groups—also present at Middlebury College—focuses around outreach, English language learning, and support for the migrant worker community. He enjoys using Spanish at work and feels he is "fortunate to have some amazing co-workers." Josh works weekends and holiday weeks at Stowe Mountain as a ski coach and also performs as a pianist.



Christiane Kokubo



A native of São Paulo, Brazil, Chris Kokubo first came to Vermont in 2003 to work and learn how to ski at Mad River Glen, where she would meet her now-husband Nate. Chris heard about the job opening at the ODC on her first day after joining Front Porch Forum, an online neighborhood forum, in the fall of 2013. Her role at the clinic has changed over the years, she is now in charge of ODC's Communications. In September 2016, Chris and Nate drove 30,000 miles from Starksboro to São Paulo, making the epic "from home para casa" journey into a fundraiser for the clinic. She is happy to be back to Vermont and, despite missing her family, friends and the tropical flavors of Brazil, she feels fortunate to have found love and the best coworkers in the Green Mountain State. In 2018, she is planning to participate in an ultra-marathon and feels thrilled she somehow found a coworker crazy enough to do it with her!



Heidi Sulis, MPH (Master of Public Health)

Heidi's involvement with the ODC dates back to 2009, when she started volunteering as a front desk person and then as a board member. At the time, the ODC was located on Exchange St. in Middlebury. "It was back when our interpreters were largely comprised of high school students who were taking Spanish and AP Spanish, so it was a very different looking model of care. Ken Dabbs, the ED at the time, initiated discussions with Bi-State Primary Care and was instrumental

in landing a federal grant to serve the local migrant population. He was a gifted nurse and forward thinker."

In February 2013, two years after Porter Hospital decided to close the department where she had been working for 21 years, Heidi applied for and became ODC's Executive Director. Though the learning curve was steep at times, she feels it's been a great fit and opportunity for growth. "The unknowns around funding can be very disquieting sometimes, but it's the nature of who we are and it has forced me to develop a whole part of myself that I never knew I had the capacity for. It's good for us to keep exploring and experimenting," she explains. Heidi loves to walk and hike the woods with her dogs, spend time with her family, and volunteer with Hospice and in the religious exploration program at church.

As for this summer, she is looking forward to spending time with her baby granddaughter Audrey, who will be living in Vermont for 8 weeks. "I think she will be able to celebrate her first birthday here!" hopes the proud Nana.



From donors, patients and volunteers:

"The Open Door Clinic is a wonderful resource for our community, providing excellent healthcare with friendly, caring, and compassionate volunteers. At The Open Door Clinic, you're greeted with a warm smile and you leave feeling better than when you came."

"We highly recommend the Open Door Clinic to anyone looking for quality healthcare!"

- M.S. and C.M., patients of the ODC

"Now, more than ever, thank you for all you do."

- Jessica Racusin, donor

"I really miss the whole ODC family. I really want to know how things are going there, and if there's anything someone snowed in across the country can do to continue to help and support you guys."

- JJ Moser, Middlebury College Class of February 2017, former ODC summer intern

ODC Through Time

