



# a healthier future for southeast Fort Wayne

Neighborhood Health  
Ward Project



# a community comes together

In August 2020, residents of the Oxford community in southeast Fort Wayne stood together – and stepped up. They were joining forces to save the former L.C. Ward building from demolition – instead of a decrypt structure destined for the wrecking ball, they saw an asset that could be rejuvenated and repurposed to serve a community in need. About one year later, Neighborhood Health took ownership of the building and shared our vision to turn the building into a state-of-the-art, full-service community health center. We are now in the process of bringing this vision to reality – and much-needed care to this proud, historic community.





# bringing healthcare closer to home

For more than 50 years, Neighborhood Health has been the leading community health center in the region. Over the years, we have expanded both in our services and locations to help bring health equity to our community. Today, we offer comprehensive healthcare services including medical, dental, vision, behavioral health, and nutrition for women, infants, and children (WIC).

In southeast Fort Wayne, the social determinants of health such as lack of access to quality healthcare, community context, and financial stability are all at work to create the perfect storm. The southeast community is especially burdened with a myriad of health concerns, including high rates of hypertension, diabetes, and low birth weight babies.

Along with this, the high rates of infant mortality, need for oral care services, and access for those served in another language are additional barriers that need to be considered if we are to address the healthcare crisis in southeast Fort Wayne.





# the need in southeast Fort Wayne



## **63% of residents are considered low-income**

More than double the  
state average



## **High infant mortality rates**

According to a 2020 report from the  
Indiana Department of Health, infant  
mortality rates nearly double the national  
rate – 9.7 deaths per 1,000 live births;  
16.3 deaths for African-American births



## **Translation assistance**

More than 2,000 residents have  
limited English proficiency



## **Lack of accessible prenatal care**

More than half of pregnant  
mothers are reported to not  
receive early appointments  
and guidance



## **Chronic diseases exceed state indicators**

Diabetes, hypertension, and  
low birth rate babies



## **Transportation challenges**

More than one-third of the  
population is without a vehicle

It is our mission to mitigate these barriers and provide  
quality healthcare for all. Expanding services to our  
newly acquired Ward building in the heart of the Oxford  
community is our newest opportunity to do just that.

# community support for community services

As you can imagine, transforming this historic facility into a modern, state-of-the-art medical facility requires significant investment – more than \$12 million, to be exact. The projected costs represent a challenge, but they also represent our commitment to bringing positive health outcomes to this community.

## The need is great.

Infant mortality in this area is at a high, and 46806 has one of the top 10 highest rates of all zip codes in the state—with African American mothers being nearly twice as at-risk. According to local community data, more than 50% of these pregnant mothers did not receive early prenatal care.

# comprehensive healthcare in the heart of southeast Fort Wayne

The redevelopment and expansion of the former Ward School in southeast Fort Wayne will help us address these continued needs. This new facility will enable us to offer:



## **Primary services available to all**

On-site family practice, pediatrics, family planning, prenatal, immunizations, preventive screenings, dental, nutritional counseling, on-site lab services and behavioral health services – regardless of insurance status



## **Community Center**

An 1,800-square-foot community center open to the public with a separate entrance for collaborative partnerships and health-related programming



## **Prenatal Focus**

Our full prenatal provider team will be moving to the Ward site to address the unmet need of infant mortality



## **WIC wraparound support**

An entire wing will be dedicated to proper pre- and post-natal nutrition and breastfeeding support



## **Easier accessibility**

Convenient location, access to public transportation, extended hours





This project is a communal effort and as such we need everyone's support to make it a success. Donations are vital to not only initiate the project, but to give it long term sustainability and to be scalable to the need. If you are interested in investing in this project and its incredible impact on southeast Fort Wayne, scan the QR code below, fill out a donation card, or visit [mynhfw.org/donate](https://mynhfw.org/donate) to see how you can help.





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Neighborhood Health receives HHS funding and has Federal Public Health Service (PHS) deemed status with respect to certain health or health-related claims, including medical malpractice claims, for itself and its covered individuals. Neighborhood Health is a Health Center Program grantee under 42 U.S.C. 254b, and a deemed Public Health Service employee under 42 U.S.C. 233(g)-(n)

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