

# Why Should I Volunteer with WeCareJax?

## Physicians and Providers

More than **500** of your medical peers volunteer their time and expertise to help their neighbors in need in Duval County. WeCareJax supports uninsured adults by increasing their access to specialty healthcare during a medical crisis, thanks to our network of volunteer physicians and hospital partners. Licensed health professionals are provided Sovereign Immunity by the State of Florida for the free care they provide to our uninsured neighbors living at 200% or less of the Federal Poverty Level.

## BENEFITS TO VOLUNTEERS

### Active Health Care Provider:

If a physician or other licensed provider renders services under contract with WeCareJax without compensation to low-income recipients for at least 160 hours for each biennial licensure period, you will be eligible for:

- Waiver of the biennial license renewal fee
- Fulfillment of 25% of the continuing education hours required for license renewal
- Sovereign Immunity for yourself and practice for all services / encounters provided for patients under the program - no impact to malpractice insurance

### Retired Health Care Provider:

If a retired physician or other licensed provider renders services under contract with WeCareJax without compensation to low-income recipients for at least 800 hours during the licensure period, you will be eligible for:

- Waiver of the biennial license renewal fee
- Fulfillment of 25% of the continuing education hours required for license renewal
- Sovereign Immunity through the State, instead of purchasing malpractice insurance

\*Florida Statutes: 766.1115; 766.1116, item 2; 456.013(9)

Patients come to WeCareJax through our safety net clinic partners, who offer comprehensive primary care. When they need advanced diagnostics or a consultation with a specialist, the clinic submits a referral request to our Patient Care Specialists. Our team then finds a volunteer provider with an open appointment and schedules the patient, sending along lab results, imaging, and progress notes. Should the patient need additional follow up, including surgery or cancer treatment - our team takes care of that, too.



“What WeCareJax does is it allows those patients that can’t access health care in any other capacity, because they lack insurance, it gets them to see physicians, specialists, it gets them to surgical care, blood work, and x-rays. Which are all very, very critical issues when dealing with sick people.”



**Dr. Kyle Etzkorn**  
*Borland Groover*

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: Is WeCareJax an insurance plan?**

A: No. Unlike an insurance plan, patients who qualify are served by physicians and hospital partners at no cost to the patient. WeCareJax also makes arrangements to cover the cost of specialty labs, durable medical equipment, and other items outside the scope of the physician visit through our amazing donors and sponsors.

**Q: Is there monetary compensation for a provider's time?**

A: No, care is provided by the physician as a volunteer, and their time with the patient is covered under the State Sovereign Immunity program.

**Q: What is Sovereign Immunity?**

A: Sovereign Immunity means the State holds the liability for the time and services provided under the Volunteer Physician program. Providers do not have to use their own medical malpractice insurance for their volunteer work.

**Q: Do physicians have to sign a contract to work with WeCareJax?**

A: No, although the benefits available through the State Sovereign Immunity program will not apply. Physician volunteers who sign a Sovereign Immunity contract with the State of Florida ensure that they do not bear the liability for the care they offer our patients. An application is submitted to the state, who reviews the physician's current licensure, and then a signed contract is valid for five years. WeCareJax and its partner clinics make sure that all the patients referred to our physicians have completed the eligibility paperwork the State requires. Our team undergoes an annual audit with the State to ensure we are keeping track.

**Q: How do you know that patients are qualified for care?**

A: Our partner clinics check the State's insurance database to check for insured status, and then complete the State's required financial eligibility forms before they send a referral to us. Those forms are checked during our authorization process for completeness.

## FY2024 NUMBERS



**2,046**

Patients Served



**7,148**

Appointments  
Scheduled



**\$23 Million**

Value of Care for Donated  
Services from Volunteer  
Physicians



**500+**

Volunteer Specialty  
Providers

### WeCareJax Mission:

WeCareJax coordinates compassionate specialty healthcare with individualized support for our uninsured neighbors in need.

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**WeCareJax**  
Connecting Patients to Compassionate Care