

suburban life

Pediatric Care Group P.C., which recently opened a new location in Richboro, takes a comprehensive, compassionate, and team-based approach to helping children thrive. page 18

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Welcome Home

Dr. Marylee Mundell, co-founder of PCG



“There’s no place like home,” as Dorothy Gale once said. For 17 years and counting, parents in the Philadelphia area and far beyond have been saying something similar: “There’s no place like PCG.”

PCG is short for Pediatric Care Group P.C., a pediatric care practice in Jenkintown that recently expanded to a new state-of-the-art office in Richboro. At both locations, patients and their parents benefit from a team of practitioners who strive to deliver the highest-quality pediatric care in an environment of compassion and support.

“We want our patients to have a positive physician experience, and we are committed to ensuring that every patient receives individual and personal attention,” says Marylee Mundell, D.O., FAAP, who opened the practice in 2003 with co-founder Marie Carrier Kinsley, M.D., FAAP. “By listening to our young patients and their families, who we are privileged to serve, we can guide them along a path of optimal health and wellness.”

PCG’s Richboro location was preparing to open its doors to the public just as the COVID-19 pandemic reached the United States. Although the pandemic temporarily delayed the new office’s opening, PCG remained available to families through telemedicine or in-person visits as long as patients met strict screening criteria to prevent the spread of the virus.

To this day, PCG screens every individual who enters either office. Screening protocols include taking the temperatures of patients and their guardians to make sure they are showing no symptoms, limiting unnecessary visitors, and separating sick patients from well patients to avoid cross-contamination. These protocols seem to have assured parents, as PCG has welcomed many new patients into the fold throughout the crisis.

“We have taken extensive measures to ensure the safety of patients and to make sure our offices are as sterile as possible,” says Michelle Wilkov, PCG’s practice manager. “We’ve added air purifiers in the waiting room and throughout the entire office, constant cleaning where the room is sterilized and medically cleaned after the patient leaves, changing the way we book patients so we’re not bringing in patients with any type of risk,



and utilizing telemedicine wherever possible. With everything we do, we're focused on safety while delivering the same high quality of care."

Focused on the Whole Patient

When it first opened its doors in 2003, PCG was one of the first female-owned practices in the area. The physicians did everything back then—taking patients' weights, measurements, and blood pressures, giving immunizations, and performing the suturing. Starting with 200 patients, the practice grew to more than 2,000 patients in the span of two years.

PCG has continued to grow in the years since, serving families in Bucks and Montgomery counties, as well as much farther afield. A team that includes five pediatricians and three nurse practitioners provide care for patients from birth to age 21, with convenient hours on weekdays and Saturdays, including a walk-in hour, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., Monday through Thursday.

"Continuity of care is the foundation PCG was built on," Dr. Mundell says. "When a parent brings their child to PCG, we are asking them to form a relationship with us—a doctor-patient relationship that will last for years to come. I know all of my patients, and that's true for both locations. I'm now on my third generation of patients, and that is our mission. We ask patients to choose a primary provider, and that provider will be their doctor for as long as they are patients here."

PCG follows the "medical home" model, meaning it is patient-centered, comprehensive, team-based, coordinated, accessible, and focused on quality and safety. Children are well cared for, medically, developmentally, and emotionally. Dr. Mundell says every member of the team strives to go "above and beyond" for each patient. If a child needs blood work, a scan, or an appointment with a specialist outside of the practice, for example, PCG steps in and makes it happen.

"The reason we started our practice was

that at the time there were these huge practices where children were treated like a number," says Dr. Mundell. "We were determined to change that long before medical home was mandated. Continuity of care and becoming part of the family is our goal. We practice state-of-the-art medicine according to the AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) guidelines. We practice the highest quality of care by coordinating and working with our patients and parents to construct a plan for medical care that is acceptable to both and all encompassing."

PCG has the ability to treat every child, regardless of family income or their mental or physical abilities. It also accepts most major insurances for optimal patient convenience.

"We see everyone from the well patient who walks in for a routine visit, to the child who comes in with a trach [tube] and a wheelchair in need of very specific care—we do the full gamut," Dr. Mundell says. "We also do same-day physicals so children can compete in school sports, and they leave the office with a filled-out PIAA form. We do same-day sick



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visits. We also do something I don't think any other practice does, which is an IEP (individualized education plan) review for kids with learning disabilities. If a patient has a need, we want to help them address it.”

Pediatrician Angela Wang, M.D., recently joined PCG after finishing her residency at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. As a certified lactation specialist, Dr. Wang takes particular joy in working with breastfeeding mothers.

"The dedication, care, and warmth that I have witnessed from my co-workers and office staff has been overwhelming and made the transition much easier," she adds. "It has been an overwhelmingly positive experience since joining a practice that is working to expand its services to the surrounding community and constantly looking for ways to improve on current management according to evidence-based guidelines."

When asked to sum up her practice, Dr. Mundell uses a simple but very telling word: caring. The staff and providers truly love what they do. To them, their work isn't a job but a calling.

"Our parents entrust us with their most precious person or persons in their lives," she says. "That is a huge honor that we don't take lightly. A truly great day is when a parent lets you know how much you have helped their child. You get to see their progress.

You get to see them grow up. I still have young adult patients who fly back to Jenkintown for their checkups or problem visits. We truly are humbled and blessed." ■



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