Provider Spotlight: Dr. Peter Mayock

Dr. Mayock has dedicated his career to helping low-income and underserved communities access quality health care, and has spent the last ten years at Erie Family Health Centers caring for patients and transforming Erie’s approach to clinical risk management, keeping our staff and patient safety a priority.

Dr. Mayock’s commitment to supporting communities in need began when he spent a summer living and volunteering at the Catholic Worker in New York City, making soup for the homeless and helping to provide them with shelter. But he admits he wanted to do more for the people standing in his soup line than make soup. He decided to combine his interest in medicine and desire for service to the community into a career in health care, completing his medical education at the University of Illinois College of Medicine and his residency training at Loyola University Medical Center.

It was shortly after his residency that Dr. Mayock continued his volunteer work at a mission hospital in rural Zambia, Africa, an area with one of the highest rates of HIV. The hospital was not only low in resources and technology, but also doctors. As the sole physician for part of his year-long position at the hospital, Dr. Mayock worked tirelessly to treat complicated diseases like malaria and tuberculosis. When he returned to the United States in 1994, he partnered with colleagues to open a clinic in the Austin neighborhood of Chicago and collaborated closely with the Westside Health Authority, a grassroots organization that believes in the wisdom of the community’s feedback to improve a health center’s impact.

“They taught us so much about how things were perceived from the community’s standpoint,” said Dr. Mayock. “I learned that doctors need to learn to listen to the patients that they serve.” To that end, he completed a two-year fellowship in quality improvement at Dartmouth College, teaming up with a heart failure clinic to better understand what measures the clinic could take to make the patient’s experience a positive one.

Dr. Mayock joined Erie Family Health Centers in 2009 as the Lead Provider of Internal Medicine at Erie West Town Health Center. He has built a strong adult medicine team at Erie West Town. Dr. Mayock sees many of the most complex adult medical cases at the health center, but his compassion and calming nature instantly put his patients at ease, as well as keep staff morale high.

“His patients and clinical staff uniformly love him,” said Dr. Lee Francis, President and CEO. “He’s thoughtful about how to address challenging issues in primary health care. He’s a great community doctor and a quality leader.”

In addition to providing empathetic care for his patients, Dr. Mayock guides the clinical aspect of Erie’s discount pharmaceutical program, which gives patients access to steeply discounted medications. He also serves as Chair of Erie’s Quality Improvement Committee, overseeing Erie’s efforts to ensure the health centers are operating safely.

Dr. Mayock has been a vital member of our team here at Erie, and his contributions have made a lasting impact on how
health care is delivered within our health centers. We are grateful for his leadership, loyalty, and his service to our patients.

Patient Spotlight: Iman and Nasim

Iman Emamifard and his wife Nasim Masaeli left everything they knew behind. Crossing oceans and continents, they found a new life thousands of miles away. The couple moved to Chicago from Iran in 2013 after winning an immigration lottery. And although they were delighted for the opportunity, it hasn’t always been easy.

Iman was a veterinarian and Nasim a psychologist in Iran, but neither was licensed to practice in America. So Iman worked as a server and then a delivery driver, which paid the bills but not much more, and did not offer health insurance. Meanwhile, Nasim became pregnant. And while they were both very anxious about having a healthy baby, they had no one to support them in making it happen.

Iman and Nasim had dedicated their lives to helping and healing others. Now they were the ones needing help.

Fortunately, Iman and Nasim found Erie while exploring their new neighborhood and immediately made an appointment. Erie provided Nasim with expert prenatal care to teach her how to take care of herself throughout the pregnancy and identify any health issues that may harm the growing baby. And Erie delivered Saina, their first child - and Arsam and Arsham, the twins who were born two years later.

With your help, Erie will continue providing health and comfort to people like Iman and Nasim who may otherwise have nowhere else to turn. In a time when many in our communities are feeling vulnerable and fearful, we need your support more than ever. Please consider making a donation to bring more people the security of good health that they need and deserve.

As Iman and Nasim rebuild their lives, their family’s future looks bright. Iman is studying to become a licensed veterinarian in the U.S. All five family members get their care from the same beloved Erie physician. Saina, Arsam and Arsham also see Erie dentists.

Iman and Nasim came to Erie in search of a doctor. With the warm welcome, compassionate care and many services they get at Erie, they have found a home.

If you have a question about donating to Erie or the programs your support helps make possible, please contact Ashley Moy-Wooten at 312.432.7440 or e-mail her at amoywooten@eriefamilyhealth.org.

A Jumpstart for Students at Erie Foster Avenue

The average cost to parents sending one child back to school in 2018 is $685 – and for larger families, often the budget simply cannot stretch to accommodate the school supply list for multiple kids. Margarita Moreno, Women’s
Health Promoter at Erie Foster Avenue Health Center, knows from personal experience how quickly school supplies can add up, and how daunting the sticker shock can be. For the past three years, she has organized a backpack drive at Erie Family Health Centers to provide patients with the supplies they’ll need to start the school year off on the right foot.

Many Erie staff and doctors donate the supplies themselves, organizing parties with their friends and family and asking that everyone bring contributions to the drive. In addition, this year Bargains in a Box on Kedzie and Lawrence in Chicago generously advertised the backpack drive to their customers, offering an additional 20% off on items customers purchased for Erie’s patients. Customers were then able to leave backpacks, blunt scissors, crayons, markers, and more in a donation box at the front of the store for our staff to pick up and add to the growing drive.

Margarita worked closely with Erie doctors and nurses to identify families that would benefit from free, new school supplies. Families experiencing particular financial hardship were called and invited to attend the backpack drive. On Saturday, August 11, our patient families gathered in a decorated conference room at Erie Foster Avenue Health Center to pick up their free school supplies – but that’s not all they got! They took away oral hygiene items like toothbrushes, floss, and toothpaste, and enjoyed picking out children’s books to bring home as well. There was music, temporary tattoos, a coloring station, and kids got to play with a dressed-up Miguel from the movie Coco!

“One woman heard about the drive from a friend,” said Moreno. “She’s a mother of seven children, and her husband was deported a year ago. She’s unemployed at the moment and was worried about being able to afford all the items her kids needed. But all her kids left with a backpack – and they had a great time!”

A total of over 70 backpacks were filled to the seams with school supplies and donated to the drive. Moreno says she hopes Erie can top over 100 backpacks next year and include even more fun activities for kids and their families to participate in on distribution day, like face painting.

If you’d like to learn more about helping our youngest patients get ready for school next year, please reach out to Margarita Moreno at mamoren@eriefamilyhealth.org.