AMERICORPS SPOTLIGHT

Meet Kelsyn and Julie at Perry Family Free Clinic in Madison, WI!

Meet Kelsyn and Julie!

The Perry Family Free Clinic is more than a healthcare site; it's a community-rooted model of care built on trust, access, and innovation. Serving uninsured and underinsured individuals in Madison, Wisconsin, the clinic centers its work on dignity, relationships, and reducing barriers to care. And at the heart of that work are AmeriCorps members like Julie and Kelsyn, whose daily service helps make that mission possible.

Pictured right: Perry Family Free Clinic AmeriCorps members stand alongside WAFCC AmeriCorps staff and Clinic Director at The Perry Family Free Clinic, reflecting the strong team environment that supports daily operations and patient care.

A Day in the Life

For Julie and Kelsyn, each day begins before the first patient arrives. Mornings are spent preparing the clinic—organizing materials, reviewing schedules, and helping ensure that everything is ready to run smoothly. Once the clinic opens, the pace picks up quickly. Patients begin arriving, many of whom have delayed care due to cost, access, or past barriers within the healthcare system. Julie and Kelsyn assist with intake, paperwork, and answering questions, helping to create a welcoming environment.

Throughout the day, their responsibilities shift to meet clinic needs. They coordinate appointments and follow-ups, assist providers and volunteers, and connect patients to additional resources. Their role helps keep patients moving through the system while ensuring no one falls through the cracks.

For Kelsyn, one of the most meaningful aspects of the work is engaging with a unique patient population and encountering a wide range of medical cases, often supporting individuals who have postponed care. Julie values the opportunity to directly support patients and lower barriers, building on her prior experience as a CNA.

Beyond the Clinic Walls

On non-clinical days, Julie and Kelsyn often go to homeless shelters and the Madison Public Library to engage with people in the community, share information about services, and build trust. These outreach efforts help ensure that care is not only available but also accessible and known within the neighborhood.

Learning Through Service

The work is rewarding but comes with challenges. Free clinics operate with limited resources, and navigating referral timelines or role limitations requires patience and adaptability. These experiences have given both members a deeper understanding of the healthcare system. Through their service, Julie and Kelsyn have developed strong communication and leadership skills, gaining confidence in working with patients, providers, and community members. They have also learned how nonprofit clinics rely heavily on volunteers and donations to operate.

Shaping Futures in Healthcare

Julie is preparing for medical school with an interest in primary care and may return to continue supporting the clinic. Kelsyn plans to pursue PA school, carrying forward a commitment to serving underserved communities. Their experiences have helped shape both their career paths and their commitment to equitable care.

Closing

At The Perry Family Free Clinic, a day in the life is about more than tasks—it is about building relationships, strengthening trust, and expanding access to care. Through their service, Julie and Kelsyn help ensure that care reaches those who need it most.

Pictured right: The Perry Family Free Clinic AmeriCorps members are joined by volunteers and partners, illustrating the collaborative network that powers the clinic’s mission.