

## Contact Information

To arrange an appointment, please contact

### Sheri Hammond

La Farge Medical Clinic  
206 North Mill Street  
La Farge, WI 54639  
Phone: (608) 625-4039  
Fax: (608) 638-5011  
Email: shammond@vmh.org



## Donations & Gifts

Donations to the Center for Special Children are used to provide all aspects of care. From offsetting the cost of office visits for families with genetic disorders to supporting innovative research into rare conditions, donations make a difference. Financial gifts make it possible to identify and treat rare diseases at a local level while contributing to a worldwide bank of genomic knowledge that benefits all cultures and communities.

Please make checks payable to

### Center for Special Children

and return to

La Farge Medical Clinic  
206 North Mill Street  
La Farge WI 54639

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### Our international network of healthcare partners

University of Wisconsin | Madison, WI  
Windows of Hope | Exeter, United Kingdom  
Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene | Madison, WI  
Plain Community Health Consortium | North America  
a collaboration of clinics that share a similar mission

## The Vision

The Center for Special Children serves families by providing diagnosis and treatment across all stages of life; Respecting cultural diversity; Increasing awareness and education about genetic conditions; Collaborating to advance knowledge and research; Supporting all care givers, including families and healthcare providers; and Providing and advocating for affordable healthcare.



## Center for Special Children

A program of Vernon Memorial Healthcare



Caring for Families with  
Rare Genetic Conditions



So much care, so close.

206 North Mill Street, La Farge, WI 54639 | (608) 625-4039  
nto@vmh.org | <http://www.vmh.org/content/center-special-children>

# What is the Center for Special Children?



## Family practice, advanced care

The Center for Special Children is a program available through Vernon Memorial Healthcare's La Farge Medical Clinic. The program focuses on diagnosis, management and counseling of patients who have or are suspected of having genetic or metabolic disorders.

## A unique solution for unique genetic conditions

Dr. Katie Williams and Dr. James DeLine are medical providers at the La Farge Clinic, a rural health clinic offering family medicine and emergency care. They provide continuous care to all patients in the Center for Special Children, seeing patients in this rural clinic or for home visits. They have close relationships with regional and national experts in the diagnosis and management of genetic and metabolic disorders.

## The need for genetic testing

This program was developed in response to the identification of genetic conditions among the Amish and Mennonite communities. This program is available to anyone who may benefit from genetic testing, including those with genetic conditions in their family ancestry.

The Center for Special Children has a dedicated phone line to meet the needs of special children at any time of day. For calls related to the Center for Special Children, please dial (608) 625-4039. For all other patient inquiries, please contact the La Farge Medical Clinic at (608) 625-2494.

# Common indicators of genetic conditions

All children are unique in their abilities and development. In some cases, these differences can be indicators of health conditions, and may include:

- Developmental delay
- Slow learner
- Birth defects
- Abnormal growth
- Abnormal genetic test result
- Metabolic conditions
- Family history of genetic condition
- Seizures

# Conditions identified in our community

## Propionic Acidemia & Maple Syrup Urine Disease

*Identified through newborn screening, these disorders are characterized by a deficiency in enzymes needed to process amino acids from protein which can cause serious health problems.*

## Sitosterolemia

*A disease in which dietary plant fats cannot be metabolized by the body. These fats build up in the blood, leading to deposits under the skin, on the tendons and in the arteries. This can lead to painful joints and fatigue with exercise.*

## Yoder Dystonia / Galloway Mowat

*The disease is characterized by progressive muscle weakness and spasticity in the legs. Additional symptoms include leg contractures, speech disorders and developmental delays.*

## Other Conditions

*SNIP1 Mutation, Troyer Syndrome, Phenylketonuria, Cobalamin C Deficiency, GM3 Synthase Deficiency, Jalili Syndrome, Long QT Syndrome, 16p11.2 Duplication, RAG1 SCID, Trisomy 21, Oculocutaneous Albinism, Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy, and Cortical Dysplasia-Focal Epilepsy (CASPR2).*

# Benefits of genetic testing

## Diagnosing the best course of action

Many disorders can be identified or confirmed through genetic testing. For conditions which are considered curable, patients recognized at birth and treated properly can have full lives without disability. For children affected by lethal disorders, proper identification of the disorder through genetic testing may allow families and physicians to support culturally appropriate, palliative care in the comfort of their home and community.

A single genetic test may provide early identification and treatment of conditions thereby preventing consequences of the disorder. Some children are found to have lethal disorders. In this difficult situation, children and families can be spared painful and expensive diagnostic evaluation and hospital stays.

# Cost of our services

Due to the generous support of local donors, the Amish and Mennonite communities, businesses and grants, The Center for Special Children is able to provide reduced costs for physician appointments and lab testing for children and their families.

The cost for an initial appointment is \$100 or less. If genetic testing is recommended, many targeted mutation tests are available for \$50-75.

No family is turned away for inability to pay. Our advisory board of directors is willing to work with any family that seeks care.