Serving more than 8,000 patients annually, The East Liberty Family Healthcare Center brings accessible healthcare to all community members, including those uninsured, underinsured, and underserved. One of three locations, the Lincoln-Lemington clinic provides a full range of healthcare services from counseling to dental care and, thanks to Dr. Sally Wenzel, to specialized pulmonary care.

What started as a community outreach project over three years ago has grown into an integrated system being used as a model for future locations. Many patients are referred to see Dr. Wenzel by their primary care physicians, and her monthly visits to the clinic make this specialized care accessible.

“Establishing a partnership between primary care doctors and specialty doctors is a goal of this initiative,” Dr. Wenzel says. “Most of the diseases that we treat as specialists are chronic long term diseases. Therefore, a long term partnership between the specialist and the primary care doctor gives opportunity for better communication and input to the patient to improve his or her care.”

With funding for two new spirometers approved for this location, Dr. Wenzel and her team can better assess lung function for patients with asthma, COPD, and restrictive lung diseases. The success with the Lincoln-Lemington clinic provides a hopeful trajectory for the outreach program growing in a second location at the Alma Illery Medical Center in Homewood.