The Health Wagon's Timeline

1979 Richmond Diocese requests a sister to come to Appalachian region to provide Health Care.

1980 Sister Bernie started dispensing Health Care and medicines from the back of her Volkswagen Beetle.

1981 St. Mary's Hospital, a local Catholic hospital, assists the Health Wagon to cover expenses.

1983 1st Mobile Unit given to the organization for $1 by an anonymous donor.

1989 2nd Mobile Unit purchased, expansion occurs into other neighboring counties.

1993 First staff position added, Teresa Gardner, RN joins the Health Wagon.

1995 Pharmaceutical Access Program initiated. Community health fairs are initiated.

1996 3rd Mobile Unit purchased.

1998 Teresa Gardner graduates from University of Kentucky with her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) with her family nurse practitioner (FNP) certification, following in the steps of her mentor, Sr. Bernie Kenny.

1999 Health Wagon participates in Remote Area Medical (RAM) in Mountain City, TN delivering women's health.

2000 Organized first RAM clinic in Wise, VA, and it becomes the largest health care event of its kind in the nation. RAM becomes annual event for the area.

2001 4th Mobile Unit purchased. Custom clinic (40ft with 3 exam rooms).

2004 University of VA (UVA) Health Systems initiates one of the first telemedicine programs in the region at the Health Wagon office offering specialty care.

2005 *Inside Edition* showcases the Health Wagon.

2006 Health Wagon travels to New Orleans- Post Katrina. St. Mary's Hospital is sold and the for profit entity, Health Management Associates, drops funding for the Health Wagon. Health Wagon becomes an independent organization. 1st free specialty clinic in region for cardiovascular and pulmonary care are offered for patients.

2007 The RAM Health Expedition in Southwest VA becomes a focus of the presidential debates: presidential hopeful Senator John Edwards visits RAM. The visit was featured in *Wall Street Journal, New York Times, PBS, CNN, CNBC, Fox News, AP News Wire, Time Magazine, ABC, NBC, CBS, Boston Globe* and the *Washington Post*. Photo journalism article appears in *NY Times magazine*. Lung Cancer Early Detection Program initiated. Health Wagon is the recipient of the Non-profit Governor's Award for Excellence.

2008 Loan Closet Program started. RAM featured on CBS *60 Minutes*; Teresa Gardner was part of the program. Washington Post and News Week features Health Wagon involvement in RAM. Pharmacy Connect program provided half million in free medications to patients. First ever free endocrinology clinic was held in the area in conjunction with UVA. First mobile mammogram clinic was held. First free lung cancer early detection program was initiated with the help of Dr. Joe Smiddy.

2009 Nurse practitioner and Clinical Director, Paula Meade, joins the Health Wagon staff.

2010 The Health Wagon gets invited to speak at the United Nations. Drs. Teresa Gardner and Paula Meade presented a program on the empowerment of women. The Health Wagon is awarded $1.4 million dollar HRSA grant, one of only 10 in the nation.

2011 Construction begins for the new specialty clinic located in Wise, VA, and The Health Wagon receives the Astra Zeneca Connections for Cardiovascular Health SM Grant.

2012 Construction for the first stationary clinic was completed in Wise, VA in January. The clinic was completed through a capital donation from a private donor. The Virginia Health Care Foundation provided funding to hire two part-time nurse practitioners to increase the service area for two additional counties. The National Kidney Foundation partners with the Health Wagon to conduct free health screenings for individuals at risk for kidney disease.

2013 *ABC Nightline* presented segment on RAM Health Expedition in Southwest VA. Health Wagon has 7,451 total patient encounters for the year valued at over $2.2 million dollars.

2014 *60 Minutes* showcases the Health Wagon garnering national attention for the organization. 6th customized mobile unit was purchased. Wise clinic building was dedicated and named Smiddy Clinic at Wise in honor of Dr. Joseph Smiddy, MD. First in the nation wound care and ostomy care initiated with UVA via telehealth capabilities. Colposcopy clinic established. 15th year for RAM Health Expedition in Southwest Va held. First annual Lee County RAM event held.

2015 Astra Zeneca Connections for Cardiovascular Health SM Grant awards the Health Wagon and unprecedented 5th year of funding to the organization, first ever FAA-approved drone delivery of medications to the Wise Co. fairgrounds during RAM.