

# Touchdown for Diabetes

Fundraiser for the Borgess Uninsured Diabetes Clinic  
September 22, 2016 6600 S. Westnedge, Portage

## Win up to \$20,000

- Tailgate Dinner
- Silent Auction
- Live Auction
- 50/50 Drawing
- Raffle Drawing

Daniel Rutgers was always a bit casual about taking care of himself after he was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes in February 2011.

A builder who works long hours, he admits to drinking sugary sodas. "I didn't really watch my diet," said the 40-year-old Kalamazoo native. "I was too busy."

Early on, he had health insurance that paid in part for his medications. But after a divorce, the insurance ended and he faced the prospect of paying for drugs out-of-pocket.

During an appointment with Dr. Ashley Bender at Borgess Medical Center, Dr. Bender told Dan about the unique program for people without health insurance at the Borgess Diabetes & Endocrine Center.

While diabetes medications are costly, the clinic, Dan said, "is priceless."

### Priceless diabetes clinic

"They are great," he said. "They answer all your questions and they don't blow smoke."

He currently sees clinic Nurse Practitioner Erin Beauchamp every three months. She guides him in the selections and use of medications that keep his blood-sugar readings near normal and his A1C—a long term measure of blood sugar control—close to normal as well.

Dan said that when he was first diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, his blood sugar was 700 and his A1C was 17 percent. These days, he said, his blood sugar level stays in the mid-80s to 110 and his A1C in the mid-to-low 6 percent.

"The clinic covers my blood work and most of the medication costs," Dan said. He praised the sponsors of the annual Touchdown for Diabetes fundraiser for the uninsured patients at the clinic.

"It's awesome what they do," he said "They don't know me from Adam, but without their help, we might be having a completely different conversation now."

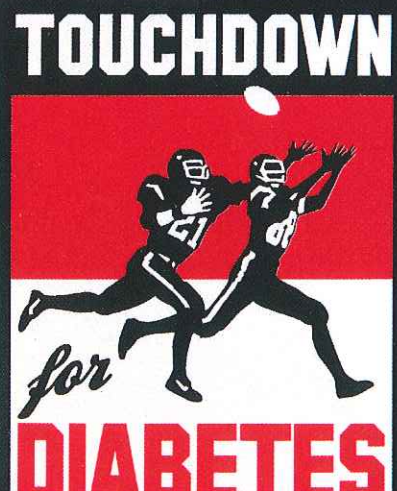
"I have friends who are being diagnosed with type 2 diabetes and I tell them to consider the clinic, because the doctors and staff only deal with diabetes day in and day out, and they go above and beyond the call of duty."

Certified by the Michigan Department of Community Health and the American Diabetes Association, the Borgess clinic features classroom instruction, individual education and an insulin-pump therapy program. Specially trained in diabetes management, the nurses and dietitians provide compassionate, personalized care. More than 200 uninsured patients are served each year at the Borgess Diabetes & Endocrine Center.

An estimated 66,000 people in southwest Michigan have diabetes. While there is no cure, the condition can be effectively managed. Each year since 1996, Cole Community Solutions, Inc. has sponsored the Touchdown for Diabetes to raise funds for the uninsured.



Daniel Rutgers



For information: [coleautomotive.com/touchdown-for-diabetes/](http://coleautomotive.com/touchdown-for-diabetes/)  
or (269) 323.3200

Raffle License Number R37750