



CCC Director of Operations David Henao and Executive Director Jim Robinson.

Free East Winston clinic serves many people in need

Community Care Clinic provides an array of services

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

The Community Care Clinic on New Walkertown Road is accustomed to opening its doors to the people of Winston-Salem. A full service free medical clinic, the CCC serves a customer base of more than 13,000 local residents, and gave away more than \$2 million in prescription medications last year alone. However, it opened its doors in a different way on Tuesday, April 23, hosting a special open house in honor of national Cover the Uninsured Week.

"Generally we do something each year and this year, the North Carolina Association of Free Clinics, ... decided they wanted to have an open house, just as an awareness-raising event for people, and publicize it across the state," explained CCC Executive Director Jim Robinson.

Similar events across the nation marked Cover the Uninsured Week 2007, with special programs designed to highlight the plight of uninsured citizens and the issues that contribute to their collective fates. The exact number of uninsured people living in the US varies, but all studies report that there are tens of millions of citizens who fall into this category, and the numbers continue to climb.

Agencies like the CCC are working across the state, where healthcare statistics are equally dismal, with more than 240,000 children without health insurance and a whopping 16 percent of all citizens that are uninsured.

"In 69 communities, there are free clinics where volunteers work to provide medical services to the uninsured, people with low incomes, who can't afford to pay for health insurance and don't have (access to) government programs like Medicaid or Medicare," Robinson commented. "A lot of people fall through the cracks and those are the people we help. We're kind of a safety net for those people who really can't go out and buy access to care."

Maria Huerta and daughter Ingrid Valencia, 13, are among the throngs of people who depend on CCC for all of their medical needs.

"I've (been) coming almost two years - our friend tell us we have free service here, and then I come," Huerta related. "It was very nice. I love how the doctors take good care. I recommend it (to friends) all the time."

With the help of more than 100 local physicians who volunteer their services, the CCC is able to meet a



Medical tech Norma Ortiz.

wide variety of medical needs. General practitioners lend their expertise to the clinic, as well as dermatologists, neurologists, endocrinologists, ophthalmologists, and optometrists, to name a few.

"We do the best we can for people, to help them," said Robinson.

If the CCC cannot provide the services the patient requires onsite, they are referred through Health Care Access, an organization which Robinson founded, to get the care they need.

"Health Care Access is ... a system where community physicians accept patients in their offices for things that we don't do here," he explained. "In general, we can take the person who needs care that we can't deliver here and send them out for referral to other positions and for hospital care, and they can get the care they need without having to come up with money."

Even a handful of dentists are on-call, allowing the CCC to provide dental clinic two days per week, although there is a great need for more dentists, according to David Henao, Director of Operations at the CCC.

Henao gladly gave tours to anyone who ventured into the clinic Tuesday, showing off a comprehensive and brightly decorated facility that he is obviously quite proud of. Despite the rising numbers of uninsured in the city, Henao said he fears that the people who need the CCC most still may not know it exists.

"I still think that many people don't know about our services, people that qualify to come to the clinic, people that need to see a doctor, people that can't afford to go somewhere else," he said.

He expressed hopes that the open house would help get the word out about the clinic, as well as dispel some of the common misconceptions about free medical clinics in general.

"It's important so that they can come and take a look, see that this is like a real clinic, see a real building," he remarked. "We can offer many services, so I think, for the community in general, it's very important to know about this clinic."

News Clips

Shepherd's Center book sale upcoming

The Shepherd's Center of Greater Winston-Salem will hold its 20th Annual Used Book Sale May 3 - 4 from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., and on May 5 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The sale will be held in the Education Building at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds. Entrance for parking is through Gate 5 from Deacon Blvd. (30th Street). There is no admission and there will be tens of thousands of used books and other items on hand.

The Shepherd's Center - an interfaith ministry whose mission is to support and promote successful aging through educational, service, volunteer and support programs for older adults - accepts donations of books year round and conducts its annual sale to raise operating funds for programs serving older adults.

All proceeds go to support the ministry's programs and services with older adults in our community. For more information contact the Shepherd's Center at 748-0217 or visit www.shepherdscenter.org.

Lottery terminals to spread Amber Alerts

The N.C. Center for Missing Persons and N.C. Education Lottery have partnered to spread the word when children are abducted or endangered. As of May 1, emergency notifications will appear on every lottery terminal in the state when an

AMBER Alert is issued.

"The first few hours after a child is abducted are the most critical," said

Secretary Bryan Beauty of the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. "And the more people you have looking for the abductor and child, the better our chances are of finding them safely. Spreading the word through the lottery terminals is an easy way to reach thousands of people almost instantly."

The electronic crawl message will first appear on the retail location's lottery terminal alerting the employee that a child has been abducted. The employee will be able to print out the details to provide to customers.

A&T employee earns Ph.D.

Dr. Tracie O. Lewis, a coordinator for distance learning for the division of information technology and telecommunications at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, successfully defended her dissertation titled, "The Preparation of Faculty to Teach Online." Lewis will graduate from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University with a Ph.D. in May.

Lewis earned a B.S. degree in business education and a M.S. degree in instructional technology from N.C. A&T. She has been employed by the university since February 2005. Lewis provides faculty training for Blackboard.

Carver grad completes military training

Army Pfc. Alex Alas has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier received training in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, core values and traditions. Additional training included development of basic combat skills and battlefield operations and tactics, and experiencing use of various weapons and weapons defenses available to the infantry crewman.

He is the son of Alex Lizama and Gloria Alas of Winston-Salem. Alas is a 2005 graduate of Carver High School.

Wake professor's work featured in magazine

Paintings by Page Laughlin, professor and chair of the art department at Wake Forest University, are featured in the May issue of Traditional Home magazine.

Laughlin's large-scale oil paintings are based on photos of room interiors.

"My paintings examine the fantasies found in home interior magazines," Laughlin said.

One of her paintings, "Mirror, Mirror 2000" is in the permanent collection at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh.

Laughlin received her master of fine arts degree from the Rhode Island School of Design and her bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia. Laughlin, who has taught at Wake Forest since 1987, is also the Smith Young Family Research Fellow.

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Standing, l to r: Dr. Stephen Tatter, Dr. Thomas Ellis, Dr. David Kelly Jr., Dr. Steven Glazier, Dr. Thomas Sweasey
Sitting: Dr. Charles Branch Jr., Dr. John Wilson