

GRANT PARK FAMILY HEALTH CENTER, INC.

1340 BOULEVARD S.E. ATLANTA, GA 30315 (404) 627-4259

PROGRAM STATEMENT AND INFORMATION SHEET

MISSION : Grant Park Family Health Center, Inc., (dba *Grant Park Clinic*) has a mission to provide health care to the under-served members of our community: low-income uninsured individuals. Our motivation stems from Christ's **emphatic** directives (Mark 12:31, Luke 10:37, 1 John 3:17) compelling us to love our "neighbor" and help those less fortunate than ourselves. Moses also commanded generosity: "do not be tightfisted toward your poor brother." (Deut 15:7). Although we consider our work to be medical ministry, we are non-confrontational in our approach and do not proselytize, instead striving to demonstrate God's love to both patients and volunteers alike.

HISTORY : Members of Grant Park's Episcopal Church of the Covenant saw the need to establish a medical ministry to the poor and formed the Center in 1984. GPFHC demonstrated a steady growth from its inception: 50 patients were seen in the first 3 months of 1985; we provided 1500 patient encounters in 1994, 3200 in 1998, 6100 in 2002, reaching a peak of more than 10,000 annually for six years. Although these numbers have declined somewhat since our "peak" year in 2009, we continue to have a large impact on the care of those we serve, since they have few other options for outpatient medical care. More than 2,000 different patients were treated in 2015, in 3,600 visits.

PROGRAMS : We provide medical care to adolescents, adults, expectant mothers, and the elderly who might otherwise go untreated. Available services include the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic illness, prenatal care, patient education, certified diabetes education, comprehensive women's care, preventive health care, and a limited amount of basic dental care. Other diagnostic and therapeutic services are occasionally provided by specialist physicians in their own "private" offices. Our programs emphasize the educational and preventive aspects of treatment.

STAFF : Several doctors, registered nurses, nurse practitioners and N.P. students, student medical assistants, and other professionals from time to

time provide *pro bono* services in Internal Medicine, OB-Gyn, Family Practice, Dentistry, and comprehensive patient education. Salaried staff members include Terry Wood, M.D., Claudia Cano NP-C (our Director), four Medical Assistants, and one Administrative professional. Our Board of Directors is interested in adding one or two individuals committed to caring for the poor.

THE FACILITY : The Clinic is located in Southeast Atlanta three blocks north of the Federal Penitentiary. In 2008 we added a 700 square foot educational building, tripled the size of our parking lot, and introduced enhanced security measures.

DEMOGRAPHICS : Most of the people we serve reside in the 20+ county greater-metro Atlanta area. With a "sliding scale" fee schedule based on a patient's self-reported income and family size we assign charges which may amount to as little as \$1.00 for an office visit. Nearly all of our patients contribute to their care; only a few pay nothing. Some are able to pay only a dollar or two, a few help out around the facility, and a few others occasionally provide food and snacks. In 2015, patient payments comprised 48% of our total income; No patient is ever refused treatment solely because of inability to pay. Medications on hand, including prenatal vitamins, are provided free of charge. The "under-served" population we care for comprises many types of individuals. Some are homeless and live in abject poverty; others might be jobless because of drug addiction. Most of the employed earn only meager subsistence. Some of our patients are part-time students. 91% of our patients identify themselves as Hispanic; 2.6% as Caucasian; 5.6% as African or African-American. 68% are female, 32% male. None of our patients receive Medicaid or Medicare benefits; and most do not have any kind of insurance, due to restrictions imposed by the Affordable Health Care act, and the decision by the State of Georgia to forego expanding Medicare. 85% of our patients earn annual incomes (adjusted for family size) of \$15,000 or less. *Many report annual incomes of less than \$7000.*

FUNDING : Since GPFHC is a nonprofit IRS 501(c)(3) corporation, donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. In 2008, 44% of our income was derived from grants and contributions although this percentage dropped to 29% last year; interest and other non-operating income sources has averaged 25% over the past few years. Our reference laboratory, the fully accredited Piedmont Hospital Laboratory, donates a full range of diagnostic laboratory services.

Two years ago, a grant from the Kaiser Permanente Foundation enabled us to provide comprehensive care to individuals with diabetes. Several churches, individuals, and family foundations provide ongoing support as well. Grants have also been provided by "It's the Journey" for our Breast Health and Imaging Referral program.

UNIQUE FEATURES: Specialty physician-provided "payment optional" prenatal care, as well as nonpregnant women's care, is available nowhere else in metro Atlanta. Patients treated at our facility are either ineligible to receive, or cannot afford, care at other facilities. We represent their only option for outpatient care. Our Clinic is within walking distance for some of our patients, and a MARTA stop is just a few feet from our front door. Doctor-patient relationships are established at our clinic; regular followup care is provided within this framework; physicians and patients often know each other by name. Patients are evaluated promptly after arriving at our clinic and are not required to endure a lengthy eligibility process. One of our goals is to enable individuals to assume a larger role in their own health care. We maintain working relationships with local churches, para-church organizations, community missionaries, and others serving the needy.

CHALLENGES AHEAD : We seek additional physician volunteers, each willing to work at our clinic one half-day per month, to serve our patients. Additional sources of funding would enable us to expand and enhance our programs.

Claudia Cano, MSN, ARNP, NP-C
01/22/15
www.grantparkclinic.org