

ATHENS NURSES' CLINIC

Program Narrative

Illness and chronic health conditions is a hardship for anyone, but for the poor and the uninsured it is an extremely difficult life stressor. Often for a person living at or below poverty level, daily decisions center around issues of survival (now made more public by the vast numbers of people experiencing these daily dilemmas due to Hurricane Katrina). Athens-Clarke County is now thought to be the fifth most impoverished community of our size in the nation with one out of four persons living below the federal poverty guidelines.

Athens Nurses Clinic seeks to provide free health care services to the low income residents of Athens-Clarke County, particularly the uninsured and the homeless.

History:

Athens Nurses Clinic has been in operation as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization since 1991, starting out with a volunteer force meeting one evening week at a local church. At that time we were known as the Athens Nurses Clinic for the Homeless. In 1996 after much growth in patient numbers and services needed, we moved to our current location at 496 Reese Street. We were fortunate to obtain HUD funding during the late 90's allowing the expansion of services to five days per week. We became Athens Nurses Clinic, Inc during this time. When HUD funding was eliminated in 1999 ANC was forced to reduce services to 2 days a week. In February 2005 we were able to reopen a third day due to increased funding through private and community sources.

Operations:

ANC is currently open three days a week: Mondays 9am-1pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am-3pm. We are staffed with (1-2) Nurse Practitioners, (1) Registered Nurse, and (1) interpreter. In addition the staff is supported and assisted by a healthy volunteer program, which includes students, retired nursing and dental professionals, and general clerical persons.

Current Services:

- **Acute Care**—physical examinations and treatment for upper respiratory infections, ear and throat infections, foot care, insect and spider bites, allergies, and minor wound care
- **Adult Immunizations**—Tuberculosis Skin Tests for residents of local area shelters and others with potential exposure, Tetanus, and Flu shots when serum is available
- **Women's Health Services**—Pregnancy Tests and counseling, Annual Wellness Examinations including Pap smears, breast exams
- **Laboratory Testing**—general testing for anemia, cholesterol screenings, thyroid panels, liver function studies, comprehensive medical profiles, as well as screening for sexually transmitted infections and diseases.
- **Chronic Disease Management**—such as hypertension, diabetes, asthma, arthritis, and gastric reflux disease
- **Medications**—as prescribed by the Nurse Practitioner and /or Physician or Dentist

- **Dental Services**—Dental evaluations, extractions and fillings
- **Personal Hygiene Kits**—personal items such as soap, shampoo, lotion, razors, comb, washcloths, socks, etc.

Partnerships:

In an effort to provide the best care possible to the clients we serve, Athens Nurse Clinic coordinates its efforts with the following local agencies:

- Local hospital Emergency Rooms
- ACC Health Department
- Advantage Behavioral Health
- ARMC Midwifery Clinic
- Catholic Social Services
- The Ark
- Athens Area Homeless Shelter
- The Healing Place
- The Salvation Army
- Miles Street
- Mercy Health Center
- Interfaith Hospitality Network
- Athens Women's Services
- Project Safe
- Hope House
- The Oconee Project
- Freedom From Bondage

We currently actively participate in the Athens Area Homeless Coalition and the Partners for Prosperous Athens initiative. **Several of the above agencies have partnered with us to make us their health care provider of choice for their residents and clients.**

Athens Nurses Clinic also serves as a clinical site for many different student experiences including the following local schools;

- University of Georgia School of Pharmacy
- University of Georgia School of Law—Public Interest Project
- University of Georgia School of Health Promotions
- Brenau University School of Nursing
- Medical College of Georgia School of Nursing at Athens (SONAT)

Funding

- ARMC
- St Mary's Hospital
- ACC CDBG local grant
- Churches
- Local Agencies
- Individuals

ATHENS NURSES CLINIC STATS 2007

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