



6425 Odana Road
Madison, WI 53719
www.ourladyofhopeclinic.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 3, 2010

CONTACT: Steve Karlen
(608) 445-2063

Our Lady of Hope Clinic celebrates one year of free care for the uninsured

Our Lady of Hope Clinic reached its first anniversary of providing free primary care to Southern Wisconsin's uninsured residents this week. The Madison area's only full-time free clinic for the uninsured began serving those in need on June 1, 2009.

Over the last 12 months, the clinic has treated hundreds of patients, and the number of uninsured seeking the clinic's services is on the rise. "With cold and flu season coming to an end, we might have expected our number of patient visits to drop," said Our Lady of Hope Clinic physician Dr. Anne Volk Johnson. "Instead, May was by far our busiest month. We've really been able to take aim at chronic, but dangerous, problems like diabetes, high cholesterol and hypertension that can spin out of control if left unmanaged."

Those who come to the clinic have a wide variety of backgrounds. The unemployed, the underemployed, parolees, immigrants, overseas humanitarians visiting home and the uninsurable are among the many who have sought care.

"This year has been an incredible journey," said Our Lady of Hope Clinic President Dr. Michael Kloess. "I am deeply humbled to be part of a clinic that has served so many people who wouldn't otherwise be able to access a physician."

A grandmother named Pat is among the grateful patients. "I really do feel I owe my life to these people," she said in reference to the clinic's physicians. Pat believes her high blood pressure would have caused her to suffer a stroke before she becomes eligible for Medicare next year.

The clinic's work is made possible through the generosity of benefactors whose contributions make them eligible to be seen as patients at Our Lady of Hope Clinic at no further charge. The unique perks enjoyed by the patient-benefactors include 24/7 access to a personal physician, same-day appointment scheduling and extended appointment times of 30 minutes or more.

For additional information on Our Lady of Hope Clinic, visit ourladyofhopeclinic.org and call Steve Karlen at 608-445-2063.