



## Fact Sheet

North Carolina has **81+ Free Clinics and Pharmacies** in both rural and urban locations throughout the state. The first North Carolina Free Clinic opened in Winston-Salem in 1972. New programs continue to be developed; three Free Clinics opened in 2008, one opened in 2009 and two in 2010. At least **five** more Free Clinics or Pharmacy Assistance Programs are presently being developed.

North Carolina's Free Clinics provide **medical and dental care, as well as prescription medications**, for low-income, uninsured and medically underinsured people in **79+ counties and cities** across the state. More than **26+ clinics offer emergency dental care** and **nine clinics** in the state provide strictly **pharmacy assistance** to their communities.

Free Clinics are **private, non-profit, community-based organizations** which assess gaps in the local health care delivery system and seek to fill those gaps primarily through the use of **volunteer health care professionals** and through **coordination and collaboration** with other providers (i.e. health departments, hospitals, physician practices, etc.).

**\$167,629,250** in free health care services were delivered to uninsured patients totaling more than **200,000** patient encounters during 2009, thanks to the efforts of **6,200+** volunteer health care professionals and other community volunteers donating more than **262,000** hours of service.

The Free Clinic volunteer pool is composed of **physicians, dentists, physician assistants and nurse practitioners, nurses, pharmacists**, and hundreds of other **health care professionals and community volunteers**.

**60+ North Carolina hospitals** provide in-kind services and other support to Free Clinics.

Free Clinics raised **\$83.3+ million** in funding from the private sector and **\$32.6+ million** from in-kind donations to operate in 2009. Funding comes primarily from the private sector (e.g. United Way, foundations, businesses, civic organizations, churches, individuals, etc.) Free Clinics provide outstanding value for the contributions they receive. For a relatively small amount of money, Free Clinics are able to provide quality health care to a relatively large number of people.

**Free Clinics do not claim to be "the answer," but rather an important part of the solution to the challenge of increasing access to health care for all North Carolinians.**

The North Carolina Association of Free Clinics, founded in 1998, is a private, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that conducts advocacy, research, public relations, resource development, training and technical assistance on behalf of its member Free Clinics and the people they serve.