

## **BACKGROUNDER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### The History of the Open Door Clinic

Open Door Clinic has been offering the indigent and working poor of Alamance County free health care since its founding in 1991. Macon Baird and Mike Easter started the free clinic; they saw a need in Alamance County for those who had no access to medical care.

The Clinic began in the Old Health Department, but has grown enough within the past four years to warrant its own property. In 2003, it moved to its current location on North Graham-Hopedale Road and brings in 10 to 13 new patients every clinic.

There are two types of clinics available to the uninsured of Alamance County at Open Door. On Tuesday evenings, patients come to the acute care clinic. A chronic clinic for chronic conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol is open on Thursday nights. The Clinic also offers referrals to specialists, prescription assistance, lab services, diagnostic testing, and free HIV/AIDS testing.

The Clinic exists because of its dedicated volunteers who are concerned about the wellbeing of those who cannot afford health care. The staff is comprised of local administrative workers, nurses, pharmacists, physicians, and social workers. Local

businesses, churches, and individuals buy the medications and support the budget which keeps the clinic in operation. With the help of these groups, the Open Door Clinic is able to meet its mission of providing medical services to those who are uninsured in Alamance County.

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