

Celebrating its first anniversary in June, Clinica Esperanza (Clinic of Hope) continues to do just what its name states – bring hope to a segment of the community’s underserved minority population.

The hands that bring this hope belong to students, residents and faculty members from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine (COM).

As a community-based primary care clinic, Clinica Esperanza offers free primary care every Saturday to underserved, uninsured Latino adults. The clinic is located in a racially integrated neighborhood in which 48 percent of the households have annual incomes less than \$20,000.

“Seeing our patients return for follow-up visits and experiencing charity in the truest sense of the word is an extraordinary thing,” said Jenny Tinch, an M4, and one of the 250 student and resident volunteers who have helped to organize this endeavor. Over 30 UTHSC faculty members also serve as volunteer attending physicians. There is no paid staff.

medicine students taught English to area Latinos. Class content was limited to phrases commonly used in patient/ doctor conversations where poor communication is often a major barrier to effective

healthcare. As teachers of these classes, the medical students discovered that in addition to not knowing how to talk to their doctors, their Latino students also had few places to go where they could find affordable healthcare. Many had come to the classes in hopes that they might also receive medical treatment from their doctors. “Clinica Esperanza represents all that is

According to Alicia McClary, EdD, professor of preventive medicine and a faculty advisor for Clinica Esperanza, student interest in the health of the Latino population began almost five years ago in a community-based program called “Mucho Gusto” (Pleased to Meet You) in which preventive

our medical students and faculty in demonstrating their commitment not only to patients but also to community service,” said Pat Wall, MD, interim dean for the College of Medicine in Memphis. “As noted in our Code of Professional Conduct, ‘patient welfare is our primary concern, for only by this commitment do we justify the trust placed in us by patients and the community at large.’ This clinic’s devotion to the underserved Hispanic community

