

IN MISSION & MINISTRY  
**United  
 Methodists  
 at Work  
 Rebuilding  
 Lives & Communities**



The rising health care costs aren't just headlines to the thousands of Kansans who have no health insurance. As a part of a United Methodist congregation, you are rebuilding lives and communities that lack health care through the work of GraceMed Clinic and United Methodist Western Kansas Mexican American Ministries.

"The majority of people who walk through our doors are employed, they're fully employed, but they work for an organization which for whatever reason either can't afford to offer health insurance or let's say the co-pay for the employee is so high that they can't afford to pay their portion of the health insurance," said Dave Sanford, executive director of GraceMed.



**"... to demonstrate God's love through compassionate, affordable, high-quality health care."**

*GraceMed Clinic*

At GraceMed, people without insurance can obtain care offered on a sliding fee scale based upon their income and the number of individuals in their household. "That's really part of our mission statement — to demonstrate God's love through providing compassionate, affordable, high-quality health care," Sanford said.



**Medical Ministries**

Established in 1979 as a part of United Methodist Urban Ministries, GraceMed has grown substantially from a clinic for the homeless to two pediatric clinics, two family practice clinics and a mobile dental clinic that serves 10 surrounding counties.

In 1987, Western Kansas Mexican American Ministries started its own clinic in Garden City. Today, there are three additional clinics in Dodge City, Liberal and Ulysses. In 2008, the four clinics saw more than 6,100 individual patients. Like GraceMed, services are provided on a sliding fee basis.

**Access to Health Care**



*United Methodist Western Kansas Mexican American Ministries*

While the agency's name seems to imply a focus on Mexican-Americans, MAM serves people of all races and ethnic backgrounds. Support staff are bilingual in Spanish and English, and Burmese and Low-German translators come to the clinic when they are needed.

"People know that when they come to us, they're going to be treated well," said Stephanie Waggoner, MAM's executive director.

MAM's medical focus is on general family-practice care, but it also provides education and support to people who have chronic diseases like diabetes and HIV/AIDS, provide testing for women's health issues and pre-natal care.

"There really is not another provider in the area that is able to provide care to women at an affordable rate," Waggoner said.

The addition of the full-service dental clinic in 2007 has enabled MAM to expand its emphasis on oral health.

**United Methodists at Work ...**

*Partial funding for GraceMed and Western Kansas Mexican American Ministries comes from the conference's mission and ministry funds.*

**Learn More About ...**

GraceMed Clinic at [www.gracemed.org](http://www.gracemed.org).  
 MAM clinics at [ww.ummam.org](http://ww.ummam.org).



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In addition to the medical and dental clinics, MAM also offers behavioral health services, immunizations and flu shots, and community education on a variety of health issues. ■