



**Arkansas Methodist
Medical Center**

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**ARKANSAS METHODIST, MISSION OUTREACH AND CROWLEY'S RIDGE RURAL HEALTH
COALITION HOST OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW MISSION CLINIC.**

Community-Led Effort Becomes Reality

Paragould, AR---Arkansas Methodist Medical Center (AMMC), Mission Outreach of Northeast Arkansas and Crowley's Ridge Rural Health Coalition of Northeast Arkansas hosted a ribbon cutting and open house Thursday, November, 15th, to celebrate the opening of the new Mission Outreach Charitable Clinic.

"We are so please to have been a part of this full-fledged community effort to provide medical assistance to those who can least afford it, said AMMC Chief Nursing Office Debra Vassar. " Working with Mission Outreach of Northeast Arkansas, Crowley's Ridge Rural Health Coalition and other concerned member of the community, the clinic has become reality for those most in need," Vassar added.

"Healthcare is not a luxury, it is a necessity that everyone should be entitled to," said Mission Outreach Executive Director Jamie Collins. "The lack of medical care was preventing individuals from helping themselves and sustaining employment," Collins added.

The result of a community-led effort and combined venture among AMMC, Mission Outreach of Northeast Arkansas and the Crowley's Ridge Rural Health Coalition of Northeast Arkansas, the clinic assists persons who meet an income criteria of 150 percent below the poverty level, with much needed health care services. Office space for the clinic was donated by AMMC, with medial center staff, physicians and other community professionals donating time, skills, and expertise. Pharmacists also are donating services to the clinic with pharmaceutical companies donating medications. The aim of the clinic is to treat the total body. Spiritual counseling is also available with referrals given for mental health services.

The clinic, located at #1 Medical Drive in Paragould, is open on the first and third Thursday of each month from 6-9 p.m. Appointments may be schedule through Mission Outreach by calling (870)236-8080.

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While the official opening was held on Thursday, the clinic has been in operation since September. Most recently on Thursday, November 1st, physicians and medical staff at the clinic treated 28 patients, with a total of 68 since September 1st.

According to a 2005 report, from the Arkansas Department of Human Services, 453,000 Arkansans are without health insurance. Seventy-eight percent of those are working families.

The community saw a need to provide medical assistance to those whose financial situation has left them without health insurance or the finances necessary to obtain adequate health care. The Mission Clinic was established to help meet that need.

Mission Outreach of Northeast Arkansas was incorporated in 1982 as a result a pastor's vision to minister to the homeless of Northeast Arkansas to equip and empower individuals to sustain or regain self-sufficiency through housing, food, resources, and supportive services,

Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, Paragould is a 129-bed, fully JCAHO accredited, not-for-profit medical center. AMMC has touch thousands of lives since 1949 as Beacon of Health, Hope, and Healing. Additional AMMC information is available at www.arkansasmethodist.org.